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A
PRACTICAL ESSAY
ON THE
VENEREAL DISEASE.

TO WHICH ARE SUBJOINED
OBSERVATIONS

ON THE
CAUSES AND CURE

OF
TABES DORSALIS.

BY J. SMYTH, M. D.

THE TWENTY EIGHTH EDITION,

With ADDITIONS and IMPROVEMENTS.

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ON THE
VENEREAL DISEASE,

SHEWING

THE DANGER AND INEFFICACY

OF THE

Methods of Cure generally adopted.

*Si vulnus tibi, monstrata radice vel herba,
Non fieret levius, fugeres radice vel herba,
Proficiente nihil, curarier.*

HORACE.

BY J. SMYTH, M. D.

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TO

CHARLES LUCAS, Esq. M. D.

S I R,

OWING, as I do, to your instructions in a great measure whatever professional knowledge I possess (the very limited extent of which I am myself abundantly conscious of) I but make an effort, a feeble one indeed, to discharge some part of that obligation, in taking the liberty of prefixing your name to the following two Treatises. I have only to wish that the return I make were as adequate as it is sincere, and that my ideas of the maladies I treat, were at once more worthy of the public attention and of your approbation.

As I am perfectly acquainted both with the value of that approbation, and the caution with which
you

you bestow it, I must not presume to attribute your acceptance of this testimony of my respect, to any other cause than your desire of encouraging those, who in matters of extreme difficulty and importance (of which kind almost all physical enquiries are) have the merit of meaning well. To that merit I am conscious of having a very lawful claim; but to what further distinction, if any, the following pages may entitle me, remains to be determined by the public and by you.

I am, SIR,

Your most humble

And most obedient servant,

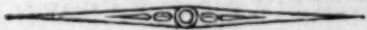
J. SMYTH.

*Great Suffolk-Street,
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TO THE TWENTY FIRST EDITION.



B EING to commit to the candour of the public, in a Twenty-first Edition, my ideas on the nature, characters, and cure of the malady, which forms the subject of the following Treatise, I can no otherwise so properly introduce them, as by expressing, at the entrance of my work the gratitude I feel for the distinguished patronage with which my labours, in the cause of humanity, have been rewarded by so large a portion of my countrymen, and during so long a course of years. I must not, indeed, flatter myself that any personal consideration entered into the motives of preference, to which my medicine owes its present reputation, nor even that the circumstance of its being offered to the public by a person regularly bred to physic, who, after serving a legal apprenticeship to one of the first Chymists in London, had the honour of being appointed Surgeon to a Regiment in his Majesty's service, and who, when the
practical

practical knowledge, acquired in that situation, qualified him to attend with some advantage the medical lessons of a celebrated University, remained there till he took out his degree; I cannot, I say, imagine that any consideration of this sort decided the public opinion with regard to the Specific Drops: I am satisfied that the merit of my medicine in itself first made it known, and then by rapid advances introduced it into universal use and request; still, however, as the good effects of the public predilection have redounded to me, the pleasing office belongs of making, as I here do, my best acknowledgments to my generous patrons, the public; acknowledgments not more justly due on one side, than willingly and thankfully paid on the other.

Those who compare the present Edition with any of the preceding ones, will find it to be not only a new Edition, but almost a new work, so considerable are the alterations and additions to be observed in it. When I first published this, and my other Treatise (on Tabes Dorsalis, &c. which also I give to the public at present, considerably altered and augmented, and almost entirely new) it was at a time when the rising reputation of my medicines drew upon me such an accumulation of practice, as left me no time for any thing but the care of my patients. I was forced therefore to be
satisfied

satisfied with drawing up, in a hasty manner, and without much order or method, such directions and instructions, as were indispensably necessary for the guidance of my patients during the progress of their cure. A continuation of the same cause produced necessarily the same effect, and my Treatises passed through Twenty Editions without much alteration or amendment, the indulgence of the public excusing the *form*, in favour of the *matter*. Struck, however, with a consideration of the uncertainty of human life, and seeing the necessity of leaving the public, before my decease, in possession of every thing that might be requisite for explaining the properties, ascertaining the virtues and extending the good effects of my medicines, I at last withdrew myself from every other avocation, and, as the fruit of my best exertions to furnish the public, with a clear, concise and comprehensive account of the maladies I treat, beg leave to offer the following two Treatises. The principles I advance are founded upon the firmest basis, experience ; as such they have a claim upon the attention of the philosopher, the respect of the physician, and the confidence of the patient. With regard to composition (a strict attention to method, and to the clear, unequivocal expression of my meaning only excepted) I have been little solicitous, relying upon the

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reader's indulgence for those inevitable imperfections of style, which always, more or less, deform the works of writers, the nature of whose subject makes them more careful about *what* they say, than *how* they say it.



A PRACTICAL

A
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ON THE
VENEREAL DISEASE, &c.

AMONG those who know best, and consider most impartially, the nature and value of the presents made by the New World to the Old, in return, as it were, for the dangers, hardships and fatigues, through which the inhabitants of the one hemisphere struggled to procure for those of the other the blessings of religion, civilization, and commerce; among enquirers, I say of this description, it has been made a question, whether the addition of the *Venereal Disease* to the catalogue of human calamities, before too long, has not more than counterbalanced all the advantages derived to us from an intercourse with America? And indeed with good reason; for what proportion is there between *imaginary* gratifications and *real* torments? Between an ideal superiority over our happy ancestors in the possession of a number of luxuries unknown to better times, and the two certain miseries introduced by a malady the most shocking in its origin, the most dreadful in its operation, and the most difficult in its cure? A malady, which, attacking nature in her most sacred recesses, while it poisons the pleasures of present generations, intercepts the existence of posterity, or condemns it to an existence worse than annihilation itself? But whatever

difference of opinion may prevail on this head, there can hardly be any with regard to the excellence of the medicine that best removes, or the merit of the physician who most successfully combats a disorder, which, considered in all its circumstances and effects, seems not less designed to evince the ignorance, than to aggravate the wretchedness of mankind. If it be true, as the greatest orator, and one of the greatest philosophers of antiquity has asserted, that in no respect is it permitted to mortals to approach so nearly to the nature and perfections of the divinity, as by giving health to mankind; where can that noble triumph be more deservedly earned, than in combating with effect the most malignant, most active and most obstinate of all the enemies the human constitution has to encounter with? No wonder, therefore, that for near three hundred years back, since the first appearance of the Venereal Disease in Europe, it has supplied matter for the zeal and ingenuity of the most celebrated professors of the medical art: there are few names of any eminence within that period, that are not to be found in the list of those, who, in their endeavours to contribute towards establishing a perfect and unexceptionable method of cure, have proved either their own merit by their success, or the virulence of the disorder by their failure. This is the *Bow of Ulysses*, in which the candidates for medical fame have ofteneft tried their strength, and ofteneft returned from the trial with no other glory, than that of having wished to do mankind a service they were unable to perform. All, however, have not failed, at least not totally: and though they had, that should not discourage the man, who, making the good of mankind, the honour of his profession, and the honest

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nest ambition of a well earned reputation, his first object, knows, that if in pursuits like these it is glorious to follow, it is still more so to lead; and who therefore is as much stimulated by the failure of his predecessors, as he would have been invited by their success. It was under the full influence of this persuasion, that the author of the present address to the public, and inventor of the medicine in it recommended, entered many years since on the exercise of his profession; and being shortly after intrusted with the care of the health of a considerable body of his Majesty's forces, he had the best opportunity of trying the efficacy of the different methods of cure commonly adopted, or of remedying their inconveniences, and supplying their deficiencies by the substitution of a better. That he found it necessary to attempt the latter, will be easily believed; the candid and liberal, even of those among the faculty who adhere to the old practice, are the first to acknowledge that such a necessity exists: but, independent of their acknowledgment, a much stronger proof is found in the melancholy experience of a large part of the publick, who, suffering much from the disease, and still more from the remedy, have no choice but immediate death or a life of torments. Upon what reasonings, and by what experiments, the *Specific Drops* were discovered, improved, and brought to their present degree of perfection it is not necessary to inform the public; it will be sufficient to say that their excellence rests upon the best of all testimonies, indeed the only one that can never deceive, and which speaks with equal force to the ignorant and the learned, the uninterrupted experience of *fifteen years*, during which they have been tried on different ages, constitutions

tions, and sexes, in such numbers, and with such universal success, as shews abundantly the difference between them and those short lived compositions obtruded daily on the public, which require only to be tried in order to be condemned. The design therefore of the present Treatise, is only to give the reader such an account of the origin, nature, and symptoms of the different stages of the Venereal Disease, as may enable him to determine, should he be unfortunate enough to contract it, in what degree, and with what probability of danger he is affected by it; and afterwards by entering along with him into a comparison between the common modes of cure, and that which I recommend, to furnish him with a Criterion by which he may judge of the comparative excellence of each. Observations on *Tabes Dorsalis*, gleets not merely venereal, feminal weaknesses, barrenness, impotence, &c. form the subject matter of a treatise a-part.

With regard to the origin of the Venereal Disease, the generally received opinion is, that it was brought into Europe by the first discoverers of America, in which quarter of the globe it is supposed to have been endemical further back than any conjecturer can reach; that after breaking out in Spain, it was carried to Naples in 1494, and from thence spread almost instantaneously over the rest of Europe. As to its propagation, it can only be caught by immediate contact, nor even so, unless the venereal matter is applied in a fluid state, either to some part of the body covered with a thin skin, and lubricated with that soft mucous which oozes through all the more tender parts, as the parts of generation, nipples, &c. or to a wound or ulcer. It may also pass from a mother to a child; but

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but whether in this case, the *fetus* partakes *in utero* of the infection that pervades the mother's frame, or whether it catches the infection in its passage through the *vagina* by a simple contact, is yet a question. Wherever that infection is received, there the disorder first appears; and as it is much oftener contracted by coition than in any other way, it follows, that its first symptoms must break out in the parts of generation more frequently than elsewhere. This is a circumstance, however, that makes no difference in the nature of the disease, which, contracted how or wheresoever, is in its first state merely local, and requiring but a little time to become universal; that is, at first it is confined to a particular spot, the blood remaining uninfected; but in a little time, being taken by absorption into the mass of the blood, it circulates with it, mixes with the several secretions, & taints the whole habit. As the cure in the first instance is almost as easy and safe as it is difficult and dangerous in the second; those who suspect themselves infected, should not lose a moment in applying for relief, especially when it is considered that there is a great difference with respect to the degrees of the malignancy in the venereal poison and the aptitude of different constitutions to foment and exalt it. In some persons it lies hid a long time without producing any sensible effects; in others it appears in a few days, and discovers the highest signs of virulency. But many persons unfortunately there are, who, though never so fully convinced of the danger of delay, want either the means or the opportunity of applying to a proper person; for their instruction particularly, the present Treatise is intended: and, to answer that end in such a manner, as to render, if possible, the intervention

vention of a physician unnecessary, I proceed to a minute detail of the different symptoms of all the different degrees of the *Venereal Disease*, dividing it, according to the distinction already suggested, into the two stages of *local* and *universal*.

Of venereal affections, merely local, that which generally appears first, and occurs most frequently, is *Gonorrhea*.* *Gonorrhea*, is a morbid running, taking its rise in an inflammation, and furnished by an increased secretion from the mucous glands. It sometimes takes place in the eyes or nostrils; and sometimes, though rarely, in the nut, prepuce, or foreskin, or in the *labia pudendi*: but its general seat is the urethra or urinary passage in both sexes. The symptoms that precede and accompany it, as well as the other venereal symptoms that follow it before the infection is taken into the system, are as follow:

First, in Men. Within a certain space after coition with an infected person (seldom sooner than twenty-four hours, or later than five or six days) a ferous or watry humour, but somewhat gluey, begins to ooze from the urethra in a small quantity, and unperceived by the patient. Stains are often perceived on the linen, resembling in colour those caused by the emissions of the *semen*, and stiffening wherever they spread, like starch. The running now almost glues up the orifice of the urethra, exciting there at the same time a small degree of heat and inflammation. A slight pricking sensation is felt along the canal of the urethra, especially upon making water. The urine at first tickles as it passes, afterwards smarts, and at last

*Or rather *Blennorrhagia*, which is a proper name for a Clap, though not so much in use,

feems

seems to burn. Painful involuntary erections become frequent, the running is sharper, more abundant and more highly coloured. If you squeeze the urethra, carrying your hand on from the root of the yard to the extremity of the nut, one or more drops of whitish and viscous matter appear. The difficulty and pain of making water increase; the patient being at the same time tormented by an almost constant desire of making it. If nothing is now done to stop the progress of the disease, the symptoms become every moment more violent; the *perineum* (the interval between the organs of generation in both sexes and the *anus*) grows sore to the touch, and accumulations of matter are sometimes formed under it. The urine cannot now pass without extreme torture to the patient, and while the last drops of it are squeezing out, a most acute pain is felt in the bulb of the urethra. The frequency of erection increases, especially at night, intercepting the patient's repose, or awaking him when sleeping most soundly. The urethra being contracted, bends the *penis* downward along with it during erections; this curvation of the *penis* is called *chordee*, and produces intolerable pain. As the acrimony of the discharge increases, its colour varies; it was at first whitish, and is now yellow, greenish and sometimes ash coloured; it is not unfrequently streaked with blood, in consequence of an *hemorrhage* from some of the inflamed parts. The extremity of the nut is covered with a roundish spot of a livid red, accompanied often with a small tumour or pimple under the orifice of the urethra. The foreskin swells, and being pulled forward by the shortening of the *frænum* or bridle (a consequence of the inflammation reaching that part) forms what is

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called

... called a *phymosis*; that is, the foreskin being drawn over the nut, contracts and tightens, insomuch, that it cannot be easily, perhaps not at all, drawn back so as to uncover the nut. *Paraphymosis*, arising from inflammation also, is in some sort the contrary of the former symptom; in it the foreskin tightens and contracts behind the nut, and cannot be drawn forward to cover it. These two symptoms, and all other inflammations of the nut and foreskin, are frequently attended with *chrysellines*. *Chrysellines* are small bladders that cover the surface of the nut, resembling the blisters raised on the skin by the application of boiling water, and filled with a transparent reddish humour.

... With regard to *gonorrhea* in women, its symptoms are pretty much the same as in men. The infection is generally first discovered by stains on the linen. A small quantity of viscous matter is discharged from the part, gluing the sides and *labia* together. Titillation, frequent prickings, and heat of urine follow. As the inflammation increases, the act of coition becomes painful, the urine seems to scald as it passes, and the matter is discharged in greater quantity. A frequent desire of making water torments the patient, especially if she indulges in eating of high seasoned food. The running is of a yellow or greenish hue, purulent, and sometimes streaked with blood. ... Small ulcers or cracks appear in the *fossæ naviculares*, or the interior cavity, and *rima magna* of the *pudendum muliebre*, which appear on a separation of the *labia*.

... There is a second species of *gonorrhea*, incident to women as well as to men, and called the dry *gonorrhea*. It is both more dangerous and more difficult

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difficult of cure than the former. The symptoms of both are in general the same, except that in the latter there is a little or no running from the urethra, and consequently no inflammation or pain in the nut or foreskin. And extreme heat and difficulty of urine, amounting often to *strangury* or total stoppage, are the usual attendants on this sort of gonorrhea.

As the Venereal *strangury* (which occurs in both kinds of *gonorrhea*, but most frequently in the *dry*) differs in some respects from *strangury* arising from other causes; and as it is often followed by consequences that cannot be too carefully guarded against; no description of its different symptoms can be too circumstantial or minute. It first betrays itself by a difficulty of making water not attended with pain, and by an unusual diminution of the *current* or *volume* of the urine. Instead of spouting forward, and forming an arch in its descent, it falls almost perpendicularly. Sometimes it is discharged in two separate streams, and sometimes these two twist as they fall in a spiral form, as it were round an axis. Heat and pain, and a frequent desire of making water follow, which torments the patient the more, as sometimes he can only void it drop by drop. If the patient takes violent exercise, or commits any excess either at table or in bed, a total retention of urine takes place, which, if it be not immediately removed, is followed by the consequence most to be dreaded, an accumulation of urine in the *perineum*. This accident, the immediate cause of which is an erosion of the bladder by suppuration or gangrene forming an issue for the confined urine, is preceded by a greater or lesser degree of heat, pain and swelling in the *perineum*, and brings along

along with, or after it, vomiting having the smell of urine, fevers, &c. It is observable, that in the Venereal strangury, some patients feel a difficulty in the emission of the *semen*, though none in the evacuation of urine; and others on the contrary, labour under a stoppage of urine, and are free from any obstruction of the seminal discharge. Happily for the fair sex, they are little, if at all subject to this, the worst attendant on gonorrhea, which is almost intirely confined to men.

The other venereal affections, merely local, though not always so, are swelled testicles, buboes, shankers, &c.

An infection of the seminal liquor sometimes takes place in gonorrhea, it in that case extends to the testicles, the organs wherein that liquor is secreted. This accident is first announced by a greater degree of sensibility than usual in the testicles, which become hot, and feel heavier than ordinary; this is followed by a pain shooting towards the groin, the origin of the spermatic vessels being there. The inflammation reaches the cord in which the spermatic vessels are enveloped, and the swelling, which takes place in the testicles, encreases them sometimes to three or four times their natural size. If the aid of physic is not immediately sought, the swelling degenerates into abscess, fistula, scirrhus, cancer, hydrocele, hernia, &c.

Buboes are inflammatory tumours arising from venereal infection, and excited in the glands of different parts of the body. As there is no certain criterion by which to distinguish those buboes that denote an universal infection from those produced by a cause merely local, the safest way is to leave nothing to conjecture, and to consider every bubo

as the mark of a confirmed *lues*. For the satisfaction of the patient, however, more than for the instruction of the practitioner, the division of buboes into *essential* and *symptomatic* is here explained. Those buboes are called *essential* which constitute the primitive and chief seat of the disorder, as when coition with an infected person is followed at first by no other symptom but a bubo; in which case the disease, it is evident, must be merely local. Symptomatic buboes are those which denote an infection elsewhere, whether that infection be merely local, (as when the injudicious stopping of a gonorrhea, or suppression of a shanker, throws the humour on the glands of the groin;) or whether it be confirmed and universal, as is always the case when a bubo appears any considerable time after occasion given to the contracting of the disease.

Essential buboes, and those symptomatic of an infection merely local, affect the glands nearest the part through which the infection has been introduced. Thus a child that sucks an infected nurse, will be attacked with buboes in the glands of the neck or mouth: a nurse that suckles an infected infant, will be attacked with buboes in the glands of the arm pits: and if coition be the channel of infection, the buboes appear in the groins. As buboes of the groin occur infinitely oftener than those affecting any other place, the following description regards them only; but that description will at the same time, except in a few particulars, agree equally with all the rest.

Bubo (which the practitioner must carefully distinguish from other inflammations somewhat similar in appearance, as those which arise from rubbing or other external causes, those produced by abscess,

abscess, cancerous matter, *pus* not venereal, and also from rupture) is a venereal tumour excited in one or other, or both groins of either sex, seldom less than a pigeon's egg, often a great deal larger, causing no change in the colour of the skin, hard to the touch, exceeding painful, especially when it begins to enlarge, and at all times when the patient walks or stands erect.

... Those that are of an oval form and elastic to the touch, and in which the pain is most violent, attended with considerable heat, and a smart beating or pulsation felt by the patient, are least dangerous and most easy of cure.

... If the pain be moderate, the heat not great, and the beating and pulsation inconsiderable; if the tumour be rather flat than elevated in form, if the mark of the finger pressing on it remain for some little time; the bubo is of a kind somewhat more dangerous, because less easy of cure than the former.

... But if the bubo be hard and insensible, without pain, heat, or pulsation, of a form not oval, but irregular, it must be treated with care and attention proportionate to the difficulty of cure (which in this species of bubo is extremely great) and to the danger of those consequences in which it too frequently ends, as scirrhus, cancer, gangrene, &c.

... Shankers, are small venereal ulcers, sometimes proceeding from a local, and sometimes from an universal infection, which appear, in men, on the extremity or crown of the nut, in the canal, generally immediately in the orifice of the urethra, or the inside or margin of the foreskin, at the root of the bridge, attacking both the nut and the foreskin at the same time: in women, they appear on the inside of the *labia pudendi*, round the *nymphæ*, prepuce

prepuce and *caruncula myrtiformes*: (small knot or protuberances at the entrance of the vagina.) In both sexes, round the circumference of the *anus*, round the paps, on the sides of the tongue, on the inside of the lips, &c. The approach of shankers is announced by a violent itching, which is followed by a pricking sensation in the part affected. A small pustule appears terminating in a point, which shortly grows white and flattens, and then opens to give vent to the discharge of a matter more or less acrimonious, which, eating into the surrounding parts, forms an ulcer, sometimes of greater; sometimes of lesser extent or depth.

Shankers grow sometimes in clusters without any separating interval; at other times they follow each other in a straight line, or in a circle; sometimes too they are fewer in number, and entirely separated.

Some are of a mild nature, small, and almost superficial, their discharge being what the physicians call *laudable*, their edges neither hard nor inflamed, and the bottom of the ulcer being of a bright healthy red. Others are more malignant, irregular in shape, rather angular than round, the edges of the ulcer being hard, callous, prominent and much inflamed, its bottom black, or of a deep livid red, and the discharge sanious, purulent and corroding. When the seat of the shanker is within the urethra, it produces a running, which might be mistaken for gonorrhea, but that it is less copious, and that the heat, pain, &c. are confined to the extremity of the yard and the part affected. Shankers, treated improperly, or not in time, degenerate often into gangrene or *sphacelus*; sometimes, after cure, they leave behind them, and in the spots they occupied, hard callous nodes, which
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if separate, are called *tubercles*, if contiguous, and in a line or circle, *scirrhus cords*: in this last case, they sometimes so contract and tighten the place they surround (the margin of the foreskin, *vagina* in women, anus, &c.) as to cause an habitual phymosis, to render coition difficult or impossible, or to prevent the passage of the fecal matter, unless reduced into a liquid state by clysters. Otherwise they give no pain, and but little trouble; but they are always dangerous, as they frequently degenerate into cancer.

Besides these, there are venereal cutaneous excrescences, warts, &c. of different forms, called by different names, and affecting different parts of the body, as the crown of the nut, inside of the prepuce, bridle, *clitoris*, *nymphæ*, orifice of the *vagina*, *areolæ* of the paps, &c. Those that occur most frequently round the margin of the anus, are long, rising with a sharp edge from the flesh; and indented like the gills of a cock. Of these, some are soft, others hard and callous, the former gradually inflame and suppurate, the latter generally grow cancerous, and if improperly treated, terminate often in a *fistula in ano*. Of all these, shankers, tubercles, scirrhus cords, excrescences, warts, &c. it is in general to be observed, that they are oftener caused by an universal than a local infection.

Having thus gone through a description of venereal symptoms merely local, in a manner, it may be hoped, minute and circumstantial enough to enable the patient to judge, with a certain degree of accuracy, of his own case; and having in favor of those whose situation and circumstances prevent them from consulting a physician, endeavoured, as far as words can do, to render the intervention of one unnecessary: proceed we next to consider in the

the same manner, the symptoms that denote the infection of the whole system. It must previously be observed, first, that any of the former symptoms, though merely local, when neglected or improperly treated, are followed by a confirmed or universal infection; thus absorption *sometimes* takes place in a neglected gonorrhea, *always* in a neglected shanker or bubo; thus also, the injudicious stopping of gonorrhea *often*, the improper cicatrizing of shanker or bubo *always*, throw the infection into the system: secondly, that the infection may be taken into the blood two ways, immediately by the blood itself, in its passage by the confines of the part affected, or through the medium of the lymph, the absorbed virus settling and fermenting in the nearest lymphatic glands, and being from them conveyed into the blood. The latter is much the more frequent channel of infection.

By whatever channel the infection gets in, the absorption must have taken place for some time before it produces any perceptible effects; this time is different, under different circumstances and in different constitutions; in some persons the infection remains latent for years, in a few it never appears at all, in the greater number it breaks out immediately. It is generally observed, that women bear up against the impression of the Venereal Virus for a much longer time than men; but that when at last it breaks loose, it rages with a violence and rapidity seldom known in the other sex; as if it were fated that *all* the enemies of the lovelier part of the creation should add treachery to cruelty, and flatter only to deceive. This circumstance added to the dangers of pregnancy so easily aggravated by the accession of any other complaint, as well as other infirmities peculiar

to women, should warn the female patient not to be lulled into security by the seemingly slow advances of her complaint: the precept so important in physic to all persons, of opposing, or rather preventing the first attack of illness, seems particularly designed for this sex in this disease. It has been already observed, with regard to the symptoms of infection merely local, that they are many of them sometimes, most of them oftener, the symptoms of an universal or confirmed lues. This is so true, that there are no symptoms peculiar to venereal infection, whether local or universal, other than those already enumerated in the former class. The symptoms common to this disease, with many others, whose appearance it frequently assumes, (as leprosy, gout, rheumatism, consumption, &c.) cannot be considered as properly venereal, and therefore, they only demonstrate the existence of syphilis, when combined with symptoms unequivocally syphilitick. All this being premised, how are we to distinguish *universal* from *local* infection? By these three unerring marks; first, the union of two or more local symptoms; second, the renovation or breaking out afresh of one or more local symptoms; third, an extraordinary degree of malignancy in any one local symptom; wherever one or other of these marks is found, the existence of an universal infection may be looked upon as certain.

Thus: gonorrhea joined to a bubo; shankers accompanied by swelled testicles; ulcers or tubercles, on any of those parts already mentioned as peculiarly subject to them, along with tetters or scurfy eruptions on other parts of the body; leave no doubt whether the infection be local or universal. It is evident that the greater the number of these

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these united symptoms is, the more certain the existence of a confirmed lues must be.

Thus, also, if after being, or appearing to be cured, any local symptom breaks out afresh, (whether in consequence of an extraordinary degree of malignancy in the original infection; or which oftener happens, from the impropriety of inefficacy of the treatment adopted) it is in either case an infallible proof that the virus has got into the system. But it must be observed that gonorrhea often terminates in gleans; but this gleet however obstinate (and it is frequently so much so as to resist all the efforts of physic) has nothing venereal in it, although it originated in a venereal infection.

Lastly, if a local symptom possesses such a degree of malignancy, as, in spite of proper treatment, to grow worse instead of better, it may be concluded that it proceeds from an universal infection. A symptom however may, in this as well as in many other disorders, be stubborn or obstinate, yet not malignant; that is to say, it may be long and difficult of cure, without being otherwise dangerous: but this is a distinction that the skilful and experienced practitioner only can make.

Having said thus much, I might close this part of my subject here, there being no appearance of the venereal disease, as merely venereal and not combined with any other malady, that may not be distinguished by attending to the rules just laid down; but as this Treatise is designed to serve as physician to those who cannot or will not consult any other, I shall go into a more particular and minute description, as well of the different stages of universal lues, as of its symptoms when combined with other diseases. First, the several disorders

ders of the parts of generation increase, become more malignant or break out afresh. If the patient is affected with gonorrhea, the discharge becomes more abundant and more acrimonious, the other inflammatory symptoms increasing in the same proportion. Shankers, ulcers, and excrescences of every kind, about the genital parts, *anus*, &c. though at first merely local, and perhaps still so, become more stubborn when supported by an infected state of the blood. Besides these symptoms, excrescences of different colours, red, yellow, livid, purplish, &c. appear on the skin, particularly on the breast or between the shoulders. Scurfy eruptions, with hard callous bases, appear in the corners of the mouth, upon the forehead and temples, and behind the ears, and from thence spread all over the head, and by degrees over the rest of the body. In time these pustules are covered with scabs of a tawny yellow hue, and when they occupy the hairy part, they destroy the roots of the hair and occasion baldness.

The palms of the hands become dry and hot, and are covered with a scaly scurf; they frequently break into fissures or cracks, through which a thin ichor is discharged with great pain. When the eruption is dried up, the epidermis generally peels off from the subjacent skin.

The nails of the fingers and toes become rough, uneven and ragged: and at length, inflaming and ulcerating about the roots, they loosen and fall off; this is a symptom rarely met with.

When the disorder seizes the mouth, it produces little round stubborn ulcers upon the gums and inside of the lips, or ulcerous pustules on the palate. The whole arch of the *fauces* becomes
hot,

hot, painful, inflamed and ulcerated; the ulcerations spread, and eating deep, communicate to the palate bones. The breath becomes intolerably offensive; the bones of the palate grow carious, exfoliate and frequently come quite away, making an opening to the nose. The inflammation generally spreads to the throat, causing hoarseness, pain, difficulty of speaking and swallowing, &c.

When the infection attacks the nose, stinking ulcers arise upon one or both *alæ* or sides of the nose, covered generally with a hard black scab; which comes away in the blowing of the nose, and is followed by a bloody mucus; or else there is no scab at all, but a constant oozing of a thin stinking *sanies*. These ulcers spreading, rot the *alæ*, corrode the cartilages, eat through the spongy bones, and sapping the foundations of the bridge of the nose, it sinks, falls in, and leaves behind it a painful deformity, that can never be removed.

When the infection is secreted in the eyes, inflammation and ulceration take place there as elsewhere; the eyelids become rough and angry, with a discharge of a sharp watery matter; a dimness of sight is soon felt, and if the complaint is not quickly removed, total blindness is the inevitable consequence.

The ears are attacked by similar inflammatory symptoms when the disorder settles there; the cavity inflames and suppurates with great pain; a caries of the bones succeeds, a hissing tinkling noise precedes a thickens of hearing, which is followed by a total deafness.

In whatever part of the body the infection reaches the lymphatick glands, it produces indurated

rated, moveable, circumscribed tumours: as in the throat, arm-pits, groin and other parts.

... Thrown on the lungs, it produces tubercles, ulcers, &c. and ends in a pulmonary consumption, the more difficult of cure, because the venereal virus must be removed before the consumption can be attacked with any prospect of success.

... Together with these symptoms, and sometimes precedent to them, the patient is frequently tormented with violent acute pains all over the body, but particularly in the head, arms, shoulder-blades, shins, and articulations of the different joints, or in the *periosteum* (thin membrane that immediately covers the bones) which often swells and becomes carious, and which is affected principally in those parts where the tendons, or heads of the larger muscles, are inserted through it into the bones.

... Some of these pains are wandering and superficial, others fixed and deep, resembling gouty or rheumatick pains so nearly, that they are frequently taken for such both by patient and physician, and the worst consequences follow the improper treatment of them, adopted in consequence of that mistake.

... To these may be added, the many maladies, sometimes originating in the venereal infection, and sometimes existing along with, but independent of it; as palsy, nervous tremblings, heaviness of the head, epilepsy, scrophula, jaundice, dropsy, asthma, hectick or intermitting fevers, piles, fistula, &c. besides those peculiar to the fair sex, as ulcers; or scirrhous of the womb, abortion, exclusion of the fœtus half rotten or covered with an universal erysipelas. But there being no disorder incident to the human body, whose appearance the

the Venereal Disease does not at different times assume, it must be left to the skill and sagacity of the physician to make a distinction, which nothing but a long and consummate study of the art of physic can enable any one to make.

After thus furnishing the patient with rules, by which, in all ordinary cases he may judge with sufficient certainty whether and how far he is affected; it only remains to lay before him a short and impartial account of the defects and excellencies, as well of the principal remedies and methods of cure generally adopted, as of the particular medicine this Treatise is designed to recommend, in order that he may be enabled to compare them together, and choose that which merits a preference. With this, and a few short directions for the manner of using the Specifick Drops, I shall conclude the present Treatise.

When the Venereal Disease first appeared in Europe, the symptoms with which it declared itself were so new, so frightful and anomalous, that the physicians knew not where in the *Materia Medica* to search for the means of opposing so formidable an enemy. The violence and danger of the malady suggested to them, that nothing short of a remedy equally violent and dangerous could resist it with any effect. Which reasoning however erroneous and unphilosophical, was much more excusable in them, than the blind and inflexible pertinacity of numbers among their successors, who even now, that the disorder is somewhat better known, adhere obstinately to the use of a mineral so deliterious, that nothing less than absolute and invincible necessity can ever justify the exhibition of it. I am not to be informed, that there are diseases in which the administration
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of certain preparations of different poisonous substances is necessary; I know that cases sometimes occur in which such a necessity exists: and I grant of mercury, what I do of arsenick or hemlock, but I grant no more; and that is, that when a disease of extreme and imminent danger can be no otherwise safely and effectually removed, it may be administered, but, like other poisons, with proper precautions. But is this truly the case in venereal infection? Is it certain that nature has furnished us with no other remedy against this cruel malady, but mercury alone? A full and satisfactory answer to this question may be found in one single consideration, which is, that portion of the human race with whom this disorder is supposed to have originated, amongst whom at least it raged before it broke out in Europe; that they, I say, either are not furnished with mercury, or, what amounts to the same thing, are totally unacquainted with the manner of using it. If therefore mercury is necessary to the cure of the Venereal Disease, it follows that Providence has abandoned one half of the globe, to the uncontroled ravages of a disorder much the most dreadful of all others, when not effectually opposed; a conclusion so impious, that it could not be admitted for a moment by any thinking person, even though we were not in possession of undeniable facts proving the contrary. What are these facts? In the first place it is a fact that the first discoverers of America found the population of that country so amazingly great, that in no other circumstance did the New World appear to differ more from the Old, than in the enormous multitude of its inhabitants; which, it is evident could never have been the case, if the Venereal disease

disease had raged there from time immemorial without opposition. For let it not be supposed that the virulence and malignancy of the disease may, in a course of ages, exhaust and wear itself away, so as in time to become mild and little dangerous, and at last perhaps totally disappear. This improbable conjecture, advanced by a French physician of some reputation, has been the more readily adopted by the exclusive partisans of mercury, because they thought that the mitigation of the venereal virus supposed already to have taken place in Europe could be attributed to no other cause but the more judicious, as well as more frequent employment of that mineral. But the conclusion is as erroneous as the fact is false; the disease, in itself and independent of circumstances, has not lost a particle of its virulence, but possesses at this moment every quality that it did at the siege of Naples; a melancholy and important truth which no one will be inclined to call in question who reads (and let him without shuddering if he can) our circumnavigator's account of the havock caused among the inhabitants of *Otaheite*, by the infection which Monsieur de *Bougainville's* sailors are supposed to have left behind them.

A fact still more directly in point, as it leaves nothing to conjecture, and no less certain than the former, is, that the descendants of the original inhabitants of America are at present, as their ancestors have been all along, in possession of remedies against the Venereal Disease, so much superior to those commonly adopted in Europe, that the disorder (quelled and kept down in each individual without being altered in its own essence) never manifests itself but in effects and appearances infinitely milder than with us, and yet most assuredly

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nothing mercurial enters into the composition of those remedies. But, as this is a fact of too much importance to be taken on my word; I have, to remove every doubt that the reader might entertain, translated and extracted from a work, whose authenticity cannot be questioned, the following account and confirmation of it.

Mr. Kalm, of the Royal Academy of Sweden, having undertaken a voyage to America, not to gratify an idle curiosity, but to employ himself there in researches that might be of use to his native country, or to mankind in general, among other important discoveries, made the following:

“ That the Savages of America when attacked by the Venereal Disease, possess secrets for the cure of it, more mild, safe, certain and effectual, and much more speedy, than any of the preparations of mercury employed in Europe, which are all well known to bring on consequences, if possible, worse than those attending the disorder they are employed to cure.”

“ That these secrets are nothing more than simple decoctions of certain herbs, which being made more or less strong, in proportion to the violence of the infection, and, taken inwardly, never fail to carry off the complaint in a fortnight, or three weeks at farthest.”

“ That the same or similar decoctions are used to wash and cleanse venereal ulcers on all parts of the body; and that the herbs of which these decoctions are composed, dried and reduced to powder, heal and close up those ulcers when brought to proper maturity.”

Lastly, “ That all the herbs so employed, either grow already in Europe, or may without any difficulty be raised there; a strong presumption

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tion (even to those who have no certainty of the fact) that, independent of these, our Continent produces many kinds of herbs of the same efficacy, whose virtues have not been tried, and are not generally known, merely because the prejudices of the majority of physicians will not suffer them to look for a specifick against syphilis, elsewhere than in mercury alone."

These are the heads of Mr. Kalm's account, reduced into a short compass and divested of botanical and other technical terms, unintelligible to the generality of readers. The physician or philosopher who wishes for further information, may consult the Memoirs of the Academy of Stockholm, for the year 1750.

But though there may be a possibility of curing the Venereal Disease by other remedies than mercury (and that there is no doubt can remain with any one who has read the foregoing extract) why, it may be objected, renounce the use of that mineral, which is acknowledged on all hands to possess properties of some sort or other, peculiarly efficacious, in extinguishing or expelling the venereal virus? For the following important reasons, which are no less certain than they are important; first, the danger and ill effects of mercury administered in its best form and in the most unexceptionable manner; secondly, the dangers and ill effects of the improper use of that mineral; and thirdly, its inefficacy. And with regard to the first, (without insisting upon the fact of mercury being an absolute and acknowledged poison) who is it that considers the violence with which it acts upon the human frame, but is convinced that a medicine, exciting so sudden and general a revolution in almost every part of the body, cannot be

other than highly dangerous? But it is not so much the violence of its operation in general, as its immediate and particular action upon the nervous system, the most delicate part of the human frame, and that which mercury attacks first, principally and longest, which constitutes the danger. Hence the frequency of all the various tribes of nervous diseases, increased to so great a degree of late, and almost unknown to our ancestors. Hence it is that we see such numbers of persons of both sexes, and of all constitutions, drag out the remains of a wretched life with palsy, hypochondria or epilepsy, or find a remedy for their miseries in the speedier operation of apoplexy. Hence, in a great degree, it is, that idiotism, lunacy, *mania* (these the most awful monuments of human weakness and severest scourges of human pride) are become so common, that places set apart for the treatment and reception of patients of this description, are multiplied all over the kingdom to a degree almost incredible. For let not the reader imagine that the ill effects of mercury are confined to the person who takes it; no, the use of any preparation of that mineral is (if so bold an expression may be pardoned) a kind of *original sin* against the human constitution, infecting the posterity of those that are rash enough to commit it, for generations to come. It is to no purpose that the physician, who orders mercury, endeavours to counteract its operation on the nerves by sedative remedies, as opium, camphire, &c. besides the cruel absurdity of making the patient's body a sort of stage as it were, on which two medicines of opposite qualities are set to prize fighting together, the desired end is never answered, at least never effectually; nothing more than

than a present palliation of the immediate symptoms being attainable by these means. It is to almost as little purpose, that copious exhibitions of bark are employed to keep up the tone of the system; the too powerful influence of mercury absorbs the salutary effects of that admirable specific, and continues to reduce the whole habit and wear out the *flamina* of life and vigour much more rapidly than it conquers the disease. To the violent and immediate action therefore of mercury upon the nerves, and the total relaxation and debility which follow as necessary consequences, are to be in a great measure attributed, all those different degrees of inability in the act of generation that mark so shamefully the present race, and bid fair in a little time to introduce a total degeneracy both of body and mind in the human species.

If these be (as they most assuredly are) the certain and inevitable effects of mercury, administered in the best manner, and with the most judicious precautions, what are we to conclude of the consequences that must follow an improper or unseasonable use of it? It is plain that every objectionable method of exhibiting this mineral must involve all the foregoing ill effects with more certainty, and in a greater degree, along with the injurious consequences peculiar to itself. Of these objectionable methods (for to enumerate all would be tiresome and unnecessary) I conceive the most destructive to be Salivation. With regard to this practise, already in some measure exploded and which can never be sufficiently so, some excuse might be pleaded for the accidents which the patient is liable to during the course, however painful or dangerous (such as the intolerable offensive breath, which makes him loathsome to himself and others;

others; the swelling and inflammation of the glands of the mouth and throat, impeding deglutition, often rendering it impossible, and giving the patient the hideous appearance of a dog in the paroxysm of madness; diarrhea often ending in dysentery; catarrh and spitting of blood frequently leading to consumptions, &c. all this, I say, might be excused, if the practice was not founded on erroneous principles, and radically bad. To convince the reader, however little furnished with medical knowledge, that this is a truth, it will be sufficient to assure him, what no one pretending to a medical education will be hardy enough to deny, **THAT THE SALIVARY SECRETION, INSTEAD OF REMOVING, OPPOSES THE REMOVAL OF THE VENEREAL VIRUS.**

Now it is certain that much the greater part of the mercury, received in a course of salivation into the patient's body, acts merely and solely upon the salivary glands; *consequently* the whole of that part contributes nothing towards the cure; *consequently* it impedes and retards that cure considerably; and, *by a consequence no less certain*, it penetrates, disturbs, convulses, and debilitates the whole system, without producing a single good effect of any kind whatsoever.

The ill consequences resulting from the various other modes of using mercury, if not of magnitude equal to these, are notwithstanding most formidably alarming. Need I mention the danger of stopping up in mercurial frictions, the pores of those parts of the body where such a stoppage is most dangerous; as is evinced by the erysipelas which is so often the consequence, and which, interrupting the treatment, leaves the patient to struggle with two enemies at once, the injurious properties

properties of the medicine and the progress of the disease! Or those inconveniences peculiar to the other sex, so often owing to an unseasonable use of mercury; as the derangement of their periodical evacuations, premature child birth and abortion? No, enough has been already said to make every thinking man cautious how he meddles with so dangerous a remedy, even though it possessed that universal efficacy in the cure of the Venereal Disease, which so many of its partizans unreservedly attribute to it, although every day's practice contradicts their assertions.

For where is the practitioner of any eminence, where the patient of experience beyond a first or second slight infection, that has not seen or suffered the inefficacy of this boasted mineral? If physicians and surgeons, those of them who have the care of hospitals in particular, were candid enough to give the public all the information they could upon this head, it would be as generally known as it is true, not only that mercury frequently fails in cases where the infection has been contracted for the first time, and that as it loses its energy by repetition (not indeed against the constitution but against the disease alone) the cure becomes at each succeeding infection more dangerous, difficult and uncertain than the last; but that instances every day occur, in which the excessive exhibition of that mineral seems to retard the cure, and be the only obstacle to the entire removal of the disease: instances in which the patient, reduced by the disease and the remedy together to such a state, that certain death must follow any longer persistence in the use of mercury, is sent to the country as a last resource, and then, without any other remedy but the *absence* of mercury

cury alone, recovers his former health and strength.

Induced by the different considerations here presented to the reader, encouraged by the earnest exhortations, which some of the greatest luminaries of the physical world have conveyed to posterity in their works, and assisted at the same time by their doctrines and principles to consummate a discovery they reluctantly left unfinished themselves, the Inventor of the Specifick Drops, after many essays, much labour and great expence, brought his medicine many years since to a degree of perfection which warrants him to offer it to the public as superior to any composition, mercurial or otherwise, hitherto employed for the cure of all the various stages of the Venereal Disease.

Although the surest, indeed the only criterion of the excellence of my medicine is experience; and although the Specifick Drops, now in the possession of the public for above fifteen years, and encreasing every day in reputation, want no recommendation that experience can give them: it will, I presume, be satisfactory to the reader to say a few words of their nature, and the manner in which they operate.

The mildness of this medicine's operation, is not less remarkable than its efficacy; and, however strange it may appear to the reader, it is one and the same cause that produces these two seemingly incompatible effects; for acting, as it does, upon all the secretions at once, and encreasing no one of them to any excessive degree, it excites no sudden or violent revolution in any one part of the body, and at the same time extends its energy to all. Besides, those of the secretions which it augments

more than the rest, though moderately and safely are those, in which such an augmentation, is, at once, least troublesome to the patient, and most efficacious in carrying off any complaint whatever of the blood and humours; I mean urine and perspiration. Mixing thus with the whole mass of the fluids, as well the more subtle and delicate as the grosser, it dissolves all viscidities, carries off impurities of every kind, and by attacking the contagion at the fountain-head, removes safely, speedily and efficaciously all inflammatory and other morbid symptoms throughout the habit, all of which, however different in appearance, spring from one and the same polluted source.

Hence its efficacy is not confined to the Venereal disease; it has been exhibited with equal success in other maladies arising from a foulness of the blood and juices; as gout, rheumatism, scurvy, scrophula, &c.

At the same time that there is no stage of the Venereal infection, however inveterate, that can resist the proper administration of this medicine, it is, from the manner of its operation, peculiarly calculated for the cure of gonorrhœa, which it never fails to remove in a space of time incredibly short, without any risk of leaving behind it either a confirmed infection, or an habitual gleet, two consequences that so frequently follow the commonly adopted method of treating this complaint. For while, by its action upon the whole habit, it calms and abates every inflammatory symptom, at the same time, by increasing the urinary discharge, it cleanses the affected part, keeps the ulcer in a mild healing state and washing off the matter as fast as it is formed, pre-

vents the spreading of the first and the formation of any other. Hence it is that it removes, almost immediately, the sharpness of urine and chordee, two of the most troublesome attendants on gonorrhea, whose absence not only rid the patient of much pain, but gives him the agreeable assurance that the cure of his complaint is considerably advanced.

It is in consequence of the extreme gentleness and innocence of these Drops, that they are given to Venereal patients during pregnancy, with the utmost ease, safety and effect, at once expelling the infection, removing the aggravation by it caused of the natural and necessary dangers of gestation and parturition, and cutting off all communication of the disease from the innocent babe.

But of all the excellent properties of this medicine, there is none on which I set a higher value, than its efficacy in counteracting the ill effects of mercury, and expelling, as far as by medicine they can be expelled, all dregs and relicks of that mineral from the constitution. For this reason, those of my patients, whose circumstances or situation in life may make them wish, in cases extraordinary bad, to abridge the treatment somewhat, may add, under my own inspection, or in conformity with my particular directions the use of a proper mercurial preparation to that of the Specifick Drops. At the same time it must be remarked, that I recommend to patients to trust to the Specifick Drops alone; but, if mercury must be joined to them, I can assert that they will not only assist its operation, but, throwing off the Venereal virus and the mercurial particles by perspiration and urine, cure the patient at once of the *remedy* and the *disease*.

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The gentleness of a medicine's operation, the facility with which it may be taken, the secrecy of its effects, the circumstances of its requiring no extraordinary trouble or particular preparation, are recommendations to a remedy against any disease, but peculiarly so to one for the cure of syphilis; and all these recommendations the Specifick Drops possess in a very eminent degree. They require no confinement, neglect of business, nor particular regimen; it is sufficient if the patient avoids salted or high-seasoned food, violent exercise, strong liquors, unless in a small quantity, and above all, those pleasures by which his infection was contracted. Sixty drops (or a Teaspoonful) taken in any simple liquor, (as a glass of water, a dish of tea, capillaire, &c.) are a dose. This is to be repeated three or four times every day; taking every week, or every fourth or fifth day, as may be necessary, a gentle cathartic, viz. an ounce of Glauber's salts, or, in strong constitutions, ten drachms, or an ounce and a half, dissolved in about a gill of warm water. Those who have a repugnance to Glauber's cathartic salt, may take an ounce or more, if necessary, of the *phosphorated Soda*, (dissolved in a little Veal or Chicken broth) which will be found not only efficacious, but perfectly agreeable both to the palate and stomach. To those however who cannot procure this salt; who consider it as too dear, or who have an unfurmoutable antipathy to all kinds of salts, the following composition is recommended:—

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Take of the infusion of senna, an ounce and a half;

— Tincture of senna, two drachms;

— Soluble tartar & manna, of each, one drachm;

— Rhubarb, pulverised, twelve grains:

Mix and make the draught, directing the patient to shake the bottle when he is about to take it.

Should pills be preferred to any purging draught, they may be made up according to the following prescription :

Take of Cathartic extract one drachm;

— Rhubarb, calomel and resin of jalap, of each, half a drachm;

— Medicinal, or white Soap, one scruple;

— Syrop of pale roses, or simple syrop, as much as will make them into thirty pills, of which two three, or more according to the constitution of the patient, may be taken for a dose, washing them down with any mild simple liquor, as whey, tea, &c. and working them off like the other purges with warm water gruel.

In this manner the patient is to proceed, until a short time after the disappearance of all the symptoms being elapsed (for if he discontinues immediately on their disappearance, a relapse might be dreaded) he is assured of the total and radical cure of his complaint.

It is necessary to inform the reader, that in cases of external symptoms (as phymosis, paraphimosis, buboes, shankers, chrysellines, &c.) external applications are absolutely necessary; but they may be conducted in a manner perfectly consistent with secrecy, and with very little trouble to the patient.

Those who have an opportunity of applying in person at my house, may rely on being treated
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in a manner best suited to their case; and those the remoteness of whose situation renders all personal intercourse impossible, shall, upon describing by letter, as minutely and exactly as they can, all the symptoms of their respective cases, receive, without loss of time, such directions and instructions, as may enable them either to relieve themselves, or judge whether the person they are obliged to confide themselves to, is capable of doing so effectually or not.

The former Editions of this Treatise contained a few cases of extraordinary cures effected by the **Specifick Drops**, all of which the present public notoriety of their excellence induced me to leave out in this one. I thought it improper to rest upon half a dozen instances, the reputation of a medicine whose virtues are proved by more than as many thousands. Those however who have any curiosity in that way to gratify, may, upon calling at my house, see a much greater number of letters of acknowledgement, signed with the patients names, and in their own hand-writing, than, I am confident, they will have patience to peruse.

FINIS.

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63

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

CAUSES, SYMPTOMS, AND CURE

OF

TABES DORSALIS,

INTERSPERSED WITH

Remarks on Analogous Complaints, on the
different Degrees

OF

BARRENNESS AND IMPOTENCE,

AND

THE VARIOUS OTHER DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS
OF EARLY OR EXCESSIVE VENERY.

—*Est mollis flamma medullas*
Interea, & tacitum vivit sub pectore vulnus.

VIRGIL.

OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
CAUSES, SYMPTOMS, AND CURE
OF
TABES DORSALIS,
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REMARKS ON ANALOGOUS COMPLAINTS, ON THE
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OF
BARRENNESS AND IMPOTENCE,
AND
THE VARIOUS OTHER DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS
OF EARLY OR EXCESSIVE VENERY.

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OBSERVATIONS

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TABES DORSALIS, &c.

THERE is not perhaps any opinion more universal, nor, if we may credit the testimony of the oldest writers extant, more ancient, than the common one, which supposes a kind of progressive degeneracy in the human race, an unremitting depravation in all the endowments of man, degrading each succession of actors on this great stage, and setting them below their predecessors in every thing valuable, amiable or great. Every generation complains of its own inferiority in size, vigour and health, and becomes in its turn an object of admiration to its successor, which, to escape the prospect of present debility, deformity and disease, looks back with rapture to the imaginary pre-eminence of former days. Homer, who lived but a few generations later than the hero he celebrates, thought he could not, with propriety, give Achilles less than the strength of twelve of his own puny contemporaries; and the poets, who have succeeded Homer in different ages and nations, have not been less liberal to their respective favourites: not, we may suppose, that they admitted the truth of the common opinion; but that, wishing to gratify that love of the wonderful naturally implanted in the breasts of their auditors, or readers, they were glad to do so by a fiction,

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which flattered their prejudices while it excited their admiration.

There can indeed be no doubt, that the opinion in question is not universally true ; since, if it were, the work of depopulation must have been long since completed, and the earth ere now made one vast desert ; yet, if properly considered, it will be found not to be totally false. For certain it is, that the degeneracy complained of, does really take place, and is at all times making a rapid progress, in a considerable portion of the inhabitants of this globe, that portion which occupies the most conspicuous situation on it, the rich, illustrious and great ; and that, if the breaches made upon human nature, through the sides of these, her seemingly favourite sons, were not continually repaired by the neglected and obscurer, but more useful part of her offspring, the poor and laborious, her creative powers must have been long since at a stand for want of materials to work upon. The families of kings, heroes, and nobles, after dwindling through a short succession of generations, at length totally disappear ; their places are supplied from the pasture or the plough, and the new possessor of wealth and dignity, intails upon his posterity the joint and inseparable acquisition of opulence and infirmity, luxury and disease. The country, the true *officina gentium*, the great *workshop of humanity*, is continually sending in supplies from her forests and mountains, and dispatching her hardy and prolifick sons to fill up the chasms of population ; while cities and great towns, those immense gulphs in which the redundancies of creation are absorbed, stand open night and day to receive the voluntary victims of disease and death.

Noctes atque dies patet atri janua Ditis.

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Considering the notion alluded to under this point of view, we are enabled to fix its true import, and we find that to deny the existence of the evil complained of entirely, or to admit it beyond a certain extent, are errors equally manifest, but not, perhaps, equally dangerous. For, if to shun any calamity we are threatened with, it is necessary first to be warned of its approach, it must be of infinite consequence to a very considerable portion of mankind; to the rich, the luxurious, the sedentary, and the studious; to all the votaries of pleasure, and most of the suitors of fortune and fame; to all the inhabitants of cities and great towns without exception, and to many other orders and descriptions of men under circumstances of less general comprehension; to all these surely it must be highly important to know, that by a necessary consequence of their several situations and pursuits, they are continually anticipating the existence, intercepting the health and vigour, and precluding the happiness of their unborn posterity, and as far as in them lies, labouring for a total extinction of the human race.

This consideration, however, though so very weighty and alarming in itself, may be perhaps of a nature too remote to be interesting to many. There would seem to be somewhat of a microscopic quality in the mind of man, in consequence of which we are Argus-eyed to the minutest and least important of our immediate and present concerns, but blind to those of the greatest magnitude, that are removed to ever so small a distance. Inasmuch that, if the danger to be apprehended, threatened future generations only, it would be in vain to expect that much attention should be paid to it by the present. But since the pollution that

fouls the whole stream must begin at the fountain head, since those who sow must reap, while their followers can only glean: since, in a word, we cannot transmit to posterity the effects of our misfortunes, our negligence or our crimes, without first feeling them ourselves; it would be madness in us not to consider whether there is a possibility, by taking certain precautions, of preventing, whenever prevention can be obtained, or of palliating where palliation is the most that can be hoped for.

What the precautions to be taken are, in those cases where any precautions can be effectually, it is hardly necessary to point out. The common sense and common experience of every one a little advanced in the journey of life, informs him abundantly what he should both do and omit for the preservation of his health. Who is it that does not know the importance of temperance and exercise for this great purpose, or is ignorant that no care in other respects can make adequate amends for want of attention to either of these points? If these duties (for these are duties which we owe to ourselves, and these are of the number) were as generally observed as their importance is universally acknowledged, the human frame would stand little in need of artificial assistance, and physic would be cultivated rather as an amusing speculation than a practical art. But since necessity in some instances, ignorance or inattention in others, and passion in a much greater number, induce long and frequent deviations from the path that should be followed; and since these deviations, by continual repetition, exhaust and enfeeble, so as to preclude all possibility of return; it becomes one of the first duties, as it is one of the

the most arduous tasks of the physicians to take the unhappy wanderer by the hand, assist him to measure back the steps he has trod so foolishly and fatally, and enable him, if possible, to regain the station from whence he sat out.

All the different species of *Tabes*, the various degrees and kinds of waste or decay, that affect the human body, though owing to causes not the same, and attended each with some symptoms not common to the rest, agree very much in this, that the basis or ground work of the cure is nearly the same in all.

Whatever enriches the blood without inflaming it; whatever braces, without stimulating too violently the nervous system: whatever frees and disburthens the viscera and other important organs: whatever resolves obstructions and throws off viscid and strong humours, whatever strengthens the general habit and brings back the muscular fibres to their natural and healthy tone; whatever is calculated to produce in a considerable degree all or any of these effects, must under certain modifications and restrictions, be equally adapted for the cure of every species of decay. Hence, though the considerations adduced, the method of cure pointed out, and the medicine recommended in the following Treatise, make a direct attack upon the many-headed Hydra but in one quarter only, they will be found to apply indirectly or collaterally in every, or almost every other. This primary object of the person who here submits his ideas to the public, ideas dictated and confirmed by a long and successful practice, is to relieve those persons who, by an immoderate indulgence of their passions, have ruined their constitutions and brought on a perfect *Tabes Dorsalis*, or, in
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their way to the consummation of that deplorable malady, are affected with any of those previous symptoms that betray its approach, as the various affections of the nervous system, obstinate gleets, involuntary seminal emissions, excess, irregularity or obstruction of certain evacuations, *fluor albus*, weaknesses of the genital parts, total impotence, barrenness, &c. but the relief he wishes to administer is not confined to those alone. The valetudinarian by birth, who has received from his parents the inheritance of a diseased and unprolific frame; the delicate female, whom an immured and inactive way of life, together with the immoderate use of tea, and other weak and watry aliments, has, without any fault of hers, unfitted for the state of marriage; the sedentary artist, the indolent votary of sciences, whom a want of air and exercise by degrees enfeebles, and at last totally enervates; the determined worshipper of Bacchus, in whom a temporary and violent tension of the nerves, and elevation of the spirits, are succeeded by a constant and habitual relaxation of the one and depression of the other; the adventurous voyager, who, returning from the service of his country, or the pursuits of traffic, has brought home from either Indies, or Africa, the effects of a climate so little suited to his constitution; all these will find the observations of the following Treatise, and the properties of the medicine recommended in it, not less applicable in most instances to themselves, than to those for whom they are immediately intended.

Having thus given our readers to understand what they are to look for in the discussion of the subject in hand, we proceed to an account of *Tabes Dorsalis*, under the three general heads of
Causes,

Causes, Symptoms and Cure ; referring to each of these divisions our remarks upon such analogous maladies, as have been already intimated, or may hereafter be pointed out.

Tabes Dorsalis, or Consumption of the Back, (so called because the basis of the disease is supposed to be a depravation and wasting of the spinal marrow) is constituted by an union of all the worst symptoms that characterize an universal and rapid decay. Its chief and primary cause is acknowledged to be an excessive evacuation of the seminal liquor. That immoderate waste of any of the humours or secretions of the body should have the worst consequences, no one will be inclined to doubt, since the necessary balance between evacuation and reparation, the due proportion between what we are every moment losing and every moment receiving to supply that loss, upon which nutrition depends, is thereby necessarily destroyed, and the whole animal œconomy unhinged. Now, if the consequences to be apprehended in cases of this sort bear, as it is evident they must, a proportion to the usefulness and importance of the secretion wasted, it would be easy to conceive why immoderate seminal discharges produce effects so peculiarly fatal. For of all the humours and secretions, the seminal liquor is the most elaborate in its preparation, as well as most powerful in its properties and effects. It is indeed the quintessence of all the rest ; a highly rectified and infinitely refined spirit, distilled, as it were, from all parts of the body, but particularly from the brain and spinal marrow, from whence it is conducted by nervous and other canals to the organs where it is secreted, and from thence to the reservoirs where it is to remain. The various conjectures
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formed by physicians and phisiologists of ancient and modern times, concerning the nature of this precious liquor, though perhaps wide of the truth, serve at least to shew the value that has always been set upon it. It is not indeed necessary to have recourse to theory, to be convinced of its vast consequence to the human frame. When we see in others, what we every day feel in our own persons, that langour and inertness that immediately succeed the smallest waste of it, demonstrate sufficiently, that in parting with it we lose the most valuable portion of ourselves. For it must not be imagined, that it has been solely designed by nature to answer the single purpose of the propagation of the species; this, though its immediate and primary object, can only be attained in a number of instances infinitely few, in proportion to the *quantum* of generative powers given to each individual. It is physically impossible that any woman, as it is morally so that any man, should, in the course of a long life, become a parent as often as the body of either is able to prepare and secrete a certain quantity of the seminal liquor. What then is to become of the rest? To what purpose is the overplus to be applied? It is intended, whenever our intemperate and perverse abuse of the gifts of nature do not counteract her wise intentions, to nourish, enrich, and invigorate the whole frame: for being conveyed after secretion into the seminal vessels, it remains there till a voluntary or involuntary evacuation carries it off. So long however as it abides there, the greatest part of it, and that too consisting of the most subtle, volatile, odorous and powerful particles, is continually reabsorbed into the blood, by means of the lymphaticks, with which the organs

gans of generation are abundantly furnished. Restored thus to the general mass, it visits every part of the human frame, exciting wherever it passes a gentle but a continual irritation, which increases the energy of the vessels, their action upon the fluids thereby acquires fresh strength, the circulation is pushed on with redoubled vigour, all the vital functions receive a new spring, and are performed with the utmost efficacy and perfection of which they are susceptible.

These considerations are sufficient to shew the difference between a waste of those secretions, whose excessive evacuation injures only by exciting an extraordinary derivation of the humours to fill up the emptied space (as when a nurse, for instance, exhausts herself by giving suck to two children at a time) and that of a liquor of such importance in the animal economy as is the *semen*. In the former case, the body simply suffers the privation of a substance, necessary indeed for some one particular purpose, but absolutely useless in every other respect; in the latter, it labours under the absence of a matter, so essentially and indispensibly requisite to the due performance of all its functions without exception, that not one of them can be carried on properly under a want of it. Yet it is not merely the prodigal waste of so invaluable a treasure that injures; *that* is but one, perhaps the smallest, of the causes, which gave rise to so many dreadful effects: the circumstances by which that waste is accompanied, constitute another, and, if we may rely upon the opinions of physicians, the deductions of physiological reasonings, and the suggestions of experience, much the more considerable cause of the two. For it must be observed, that to produce a seminal discharge, the

efforts of the organs immediately employed are not sufficient; to effect this the whole frame labours, the circulation of all the humors undergoes a violent and preternatural acceleration, the nerves are wound up to the highest tension they are susceptible of, the fibres of all the muscles of the body and coats of the vessels, are contracted by an universal spasm, and a temporary convulsive paroxysm takes place, which require only to be repeated often enough, and at intervals sufficiently short, to produce all the worst effects of epilepsy. Whoever considers the structure, mechanism and nature of the nerves, their importance in the animal economy, the facility with which they are put out of order, and the difficulty of recovering them when seriously attacked, must see clearly the danger of an act that disorders and agitates them so powerfully, and need not be told that the frequent repetition of such an act, if attended with no other but its own necessary ill consequences must inevitably be fatal. The connexion of the nervous system with all the nobler vital organs is never so manifest as when, the former refusing the usual aid, the latter fall into immediate langour, and betray a total inability of performing their respective functions. The stomach, being of all the *viscera*, one of those that receives the greatest number of nerves (a number proportioned no doubt to the vast importance of its office) is the first by which a diseased state of the nerves is announced. Digestion becomes laborious and imperfect; the humors of consequence assume a degree of crudity that unfits them for their different uses, nutrition ceases, and no reparation of natural waste taking place, atrophy and maras-

mus ensue. But what is still worse, while the diseases of the nerves thus give rise to all the worst diseases of the stomach, the latter in their turn contribute no less to the former; what was first an effect becomes soon a cause, and, each of the two evils encreasing and aggravating the other, both grow up to a degree of magnitude and inveteracy equally incurable and intolerable. The proof of the double influence of the nerves on the stomach and the stomach on the nerves, is found in the tendency that all persons labouring under an incomplete digestion, have to convulsive and paralytick complaints; and in the certainty and rapidity with which these and similar complaints bring on all diseases of the stomach that did not take place before. To this double cause is owing the frequency of hysterical affections among women, their nervous system being much more irritable than in the other sex, and their too general preference of *slops* to more nourishing food, together with the want of air and exercise, having an insuperable tendency towards weakening and destroying the energy of the digestive faculties.

But while the nerves act thus powerfully upon the stomach, can we suppose the brain, their source and fountain head as it were, to escape a participation of whatever injures them? Will any one assert that the *seat* and *origin* of sensation remains undisturbed, when the *instruments* of that admirable and mysterious faculty undergo a violent and dangerous attack? The contrary is abundantly proved by the various diseases, both of mind and body, arising in the brain in consequence of all spasms and convulsions of the nerves frequently repeated. Hence epilepsies of any considerable standing, if not cured, terminate

generally in mania or idiotism. Hence an immoderate abuse of the pleasures of Venus (for the act of coition is nothing more than a short epilepsy) is followed by similar consequences. The faculties of the mind are debased, the imagination is dulled and the memory destroyed; the organs of sense are blunted, the sight in particular suffers, but all in a greater or lesser degree. To these effects of the spasmodic tension of the nerves, must be added that afflux of blood to the brain *in coitu*, which not unfrequently produces apoplexy and kills in the very act.

Another evil necessarily derived from the same source, is the insensible perspiration. This, though not only the most considerable of all our evacuations, but more considerable, as has been long since proved beyond a possibility of denial, than all the rest put together, is carried on without any feeling of it on our part. Hence it is easy to conceive, both how admirably energetic that action of the nerves is which operates so constant, so considerable and yet so imperceptible an effect within our bodies, and to guess at the innumerable dangers that must attend an irregularity or stoppage of that effect. But unfortunately we are not left to guess at them: experience points them out too clearly to leave any room for conjecture.

The consideration of this double cause of danger in repeated coition (the waste of the seminal liquor and spasmodick convulsion of the nerves) furnishes us with the reason, why moderate coition hurts women less than men, but excessive enjoyments of that sort much more; for their *semen* being of a kind less elaborate, less spirituous and less consistent than the male, the mere loss
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of it is little felt ; but when to that loss is added an immoderate and frequent irritation of the nervous system, in proportion as that system is more irritable in women than in men, in the same proportion must the consequences which ensue from it be more pernicious.

Such are the inevitable dangers, not less mercifully than justly attached by Providence, to an imprudent and excessive enjoyment of those pleasures, which, under a legitimate sanction, and confined within the limits even then indispensable, are not only harmless, but salutary ; which not only effect the perpetuation of the species but contribute both to the mental and bodily health of the individual. But if natural delights are tempered with these bitter but necessary allays, what shall we say of the various kinds of impious debauchery, disavowed by nature and invented by the criminal ingenuity of man ? Is it not reasonable to conclude, that they cannot be less destructive in their effects, than enormous in their guilt, and that even here a punishment awaits them proportioned to the offence ? With regard to one at least, perhaps the most criminal, certainly the most pernicious of all, the odious and despicable practice of *self-abuse*, this is undeniably the case. So many causes concur to render excess in this species of libertinism inevitable, and so peculiarly destructive are the consequences of that excess, that an explanation of those causes constitutes a necessary part of a Treatise designed, as the present is, to avert or remedy evils, an infinitely large proportion of which is derived from this foul source.

So close is the union, so intimate the connexion between the mind and the body, that whatever
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cause operates upon the one, the effect produced is communicated to the other. It would be difficult to determine in which of the two the power of acting upon the other is the greater; it is sufficient to observe that their influence is reciprocal, and that that influence preponderates in either, in proportion as the energy of its faculties are called forth by particular circumstances. If the mind borrows from the body the weakness of childhood, the sprightliness of youth, the maturity of manhood, the decrepitude of old age, the vigour of health, and the languor of disease; if it seems to be born, grow up and decay with it; if during their continuance together it reflects every colour and impression that takes place in the animal portion of our being: in return it communicates all its own sensations and affections, controuls and over-bears its subject partner, and exercises over the body committed to its guidance, the empire which God and nature designed it should enjoy. Hence it is, that the feelings and desires which naturally originate in the one, may, by being frequently excited in both together, be adopted as it were by the other, and arise spontaneously there too. The calls of nature properly so termed, hunger and thirst, for instance, belong only to the body; yet as the body makes the mind a sharer in these sensations, as in every other, the offices of the two may by degrees be so confounded, that that one may learn to *lead* which ought to *follow* that one learn to stimulate which ought to wait for the stimulation of the other. The man who extinguishes his reason in wine, or in whom the *divina particula aurea* sinks under the impression of an overloaded stomach, only yields to the perversion of a natural appetite; an appetite residing in the body, but whose perversion

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version can only take place through the medium of the mind; as is plain from the example of those animals, whom the want of reason guards against the excesses by which reason is disgraced. This is no less evident in the case of that impulse, by which nature has provided for the propagation of the species; but, being more active and ungovernable than any other instinct we are subject to, and, though purely corporeal, approaching nearly in many circumstances to the nature of mental affections, its workings are not always so easily traced. A concurrence of certain physical conditions and qualities, which in the common course of nature cannot take place before the age of puberty, excites an irritation of the organs of generation, pointing out the necessary evacuation, and while that evacuation follows under these circumstances, and in the natural way only, it not only does not injure, but is in some degree salutary. But as the gratification by which it is accompanied is communicated to the mind, a too frequent repetition of that gratification induces an habitual facility in the imagination of being excited to similar desires and sensations by the slightest external cause, and at length without any other cause than the abuse of its own creative powers. The mind and body thus mutually corrupting and corrupted, each feeds, extends and blows up the conflagration that consumes the other; the mind, brooding perpetually over a restless swarm of obscene ideas, directs all the energy of its own faculties, and along with it all the powers of the body susceptible of that direction, to a single point; and should the momentary intrusion of other thoughts divert it for a while from the object of its filthy meditations, the sharp humours thrown
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by the body upon the parts of generation excite an irritation that is sure to recal it. This may serve to explain the danger of indulging ideas, which we are too apt to consider harmless when not immediately carried into effect, but which are never so, because, though conquered perhaps in one instance, they yield but to triumph on the next occasion. From this source alone are all excesses of this kind derived; nothing being more futile than the excuse of *constitution* so frequently alledged; when no factitious stimulus is super-added to the impulse of constitution, it never prompts to any dangerous excess, and may always be indulged without apprehension.

But if this danger be so great in those who seek none but natural enjoyments, what must it be in the unhappy victims of the vile and destructive practice above alluded to? The fear of detection, the restraint of shame, the certainty of punishment in some way or other, enable the former to bear up against a temptation which requires the concurrence of another person to take effect; but when the criminal carries for ever about him the instruments and incentive of his own guilt, when no accomplice is necessary, when solitude encourages and darkness protects, what can hinder the odious propensity from taking frequent effect, or the repetition of the act from degenerating into habit? Add to this, that the infection being, as it almost always is, communicated in childhood or early youth, the weakness of reason, and ignorance or carelessness of consequences, natural to that age, leave it at liberty to strike root and establish its empire over the senses; so that when the period arrives at which reason ought to exert her influence, the time of amendment is past, and
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past never to be recalled. What the force of habit is in all cases, is sufficiently known to those who observe what passes in themselves or others, and still more to those who to that observation join an attentive consideration of the nature of man, and of the qualities and dispositions of which he is made up. What has been already hinted concerning the union of the mind and body, may be applied here too, and will serve to shew, that if all habits, by which both the component parts of our being are affected, when once thoroughly formed, are inexpressibly difficult of removal; the cure of habits of this kind, if not altogether impossible, is so nearly so, as to leave us no term short of impossible by which to express its difficulty. The following very extraordinary case, single it should be hoped in its kind, taken from a late publication, whose authenticity is unquestionable, sets the unconquerable obstinacy of this tenacious habit in so clear and alarming a light, that I cannot avoid transcribing it for the instruction of my readers. It will serve to guard the yet untainted against the danger of infection, and may contribute perhaps to the cure of those in whom a cure is yet attainable.

“ Mr. *Semin*, surgeon to the *Hotel Dieu* at *Narbonne*, has lately published in the *Gazette de Santé*, a curious instance of the effects of masturbation in a shepherd, named *Gabriel Galien*, who began to addict himself to this baneful practice at the age of fifteen, and at first repeated it seven or eight times a day.—After a while the pleasure he experienced from this manœuvre began to diminish, and when he was about six and twenty years old, the repetition of it ceased to excite any sensation. At this time he discovered, that by irri-

tating the end of the urethra with a little wooden stick, he could still satisfy himself completely. This artifice, however, in process of time failed to produce the desired effect, the urethra being by degrees rendered insensible, and even callous.

Lamenting his loss of sensibility, he now determined to try the effect of a slight incision at the end of the urethra. This he did with the point of his knife, and instead of pain, it produced, as he afterwards assured Mr. Semin, an agreeable sensation, and the effect he wished for.

Pleased with the success of this experiment, he often repeated it, and, by slitting open from time to time a little of the urethra, in the course of two years, the glans penis, urethra and corpora cavernosa were completely divided up to the pubes. When he happened, as he did sometimes, to bring on an hæmorrhage, he stopped it by tying a piece of packthread round his penis.

As he could now no longer use his knife, he was obliged to have recourse again to the use of a little stick, and with this he was able to reach the orifice of the *vesiculæ seminales*, and bring on an emission of semen. He continued to repeat this practice till June 1774, when he one day plunged the stick so far into the remaining part of the urethra, that it escaped from his fingers and passed into the bladder. Soon after this he was brought to the Hotel Dieu, at Narbonne, and there in the presence of the two physicians of the hospital, and of eight surgeons of that city, Mr. Semin extracted the extraneous substance from his bladder by the lateral operation. The patient, who had been subject to a cough and purulent expectoration for some time before, died fifty eight days after the operation, at the age of thirty six years.

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On dissection, the lungs were found adhering every where to the pleura, and in their right lobe was discovered a large abscess. The pericardium adhered to the heart, which was flaccid, with its coronary vessels in a varicous state—The urinary bladder was found with a firm cicatrix; the rest of the abdominal viscera abounded with adhesions, but afforded no other particular marks of disease."

Let it not be imagined however that, supposing a habit of debauchery once consummated and incorrigible, the consequences are equally destructive, whether it leads to the enjoyment pointed out by nature, or to self abuse; the difference is immense, and intirely to the disadvantage of the latter; and though this difference depends upon circumstances whose importance cannot be fully comprehended, except by physicians or persons competently acquainted with the nature of our frame and the tendencies of our mental faculties, it is not the less real on that account. Among these circumstances, of those that affect the body, the principal are, first, the facility of obtaining a degree of gratification with an imperfect erection; a most dangerous practice, which tends to destroy the tone of the nerves more than any other, and to bring on a paralysis of the organs of generation, and consequently total impotence; secondly, the commission of the act in a position or attitude (as sitting or standing) highly injurious to the muscles of the legs, thighs and back, and which by repetition never fails to induce a diseased state of some or all of them; for as all the parts of the body are then strained to the most violent degree of tension, the smallest additional labour is sure to hurt them; and lastly, the want of a corresponding *inspiration* to compensate for the necessary *expir-*

ration: the importance of the insensible perspiration has been already intimated, and it must be observed, that that perspiration is never so abundant as in the act of coition; but then one party inspiring what the other expires, each supplies in some sort the waste suffered by the other, whereas the masturbator loses as they do and gains nothing in return. That the mind also contributes largely to this difference, will be evident when we consider, that the mental triumph and exultation, together with the absence of regret and repentance, which accompany the enjoyment of a beautiful or desired object, animate and invigorate the whole frame, give new strength and sprightliness to the circulation of all the humours, and promote the generation of the animal spirits, thereby taking off greatly from the ill effects which the excess would otherwise have; while on the other hand the shame, remorse and despair that check the guilty pleasures of the masturbator during the very act, take entire possession of him afterwards, encreasing the number and aggravating the danger of all the evils that attend it.

Such are the causes of danger in venereal excesses in general, such those in the odious practice of self abuse in particular; may the readers of this short Treatise never know their effects, otherwise than in the following description of the various symptoms, by which the disease they give rise to is accompanied! But before we proceed to that description, it is necessary to premise, that though these excesses constitute the chief source of *Tabes Dorsalis*, yet it sometimes arises from other causes; as obstinate venereal gleets, long residence in hot climates, habitual intoxication, excessive application to sedentary pursuits, &c. &c. but as in all these cases the symptoms differ more in degree than kind, and as the treatment in all

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(regard being had to the standing and progress of the disease) is alike, it is unnecessary to enlarge upon any of these heads in particular.

What has been said concerning the double source from which the danger of excessive venery in every sense, and masturbation more than all the rest, are derived, namely, the waste of the seminal liquor and convulsive agitation of the nervous system, is perhaps sufficient to enable our readers to judge perfectly of the importance, and not inaccurately of the nature, of the symptoms by which *Tabes Dorsalis* is characterized. But in a matter of this magnitude nothing is to be left to conjecture, and the fullest and most exact description becomes indispensably necessary, so far at least as an exact description can apply to a disease, not less remarkable for the irregularity than the malignancy of its appearance and effects.

The symptoms by which this disease for the most part first betrays itself are, a general impoverishment of the system and weakness of the whole frame; a wasting of the flesh which no cordial or nourishment can retard or remove; hollow-ness of the eyes and paleness of face, chequered in some persons by frequent and violent flushings, wandering or fixed pains, with a sense of unusual cold or unnatural heat, or of numbness upon the slightest pressure in different parts of the body, especially the back, loins, thighs, and legs; indolence, lassitude, and fatigue from the slightest efforts, want of breath for the smallest exercise, as a short walk, particularly in a steep or uneven road, continual sweats, stiffness of the limbs, twitching or trembling of the tendons; shivering of the whole frame from time to time, attended not unfrequently by a feeling as it were of the pricking of pins, or creeping of insects down the back. There is no appearance of fever in the first stages of the disease, but all the characters of a slow fever manifest

nifest themselves as it advances, which either consumes the patient by degrees, or, changing into an acute one, puts a speedier conclusion to his sufferings.

The unhappy victims of intemperate gratification, though young, assume all the appearances and infirmities of old age; they become pale, enervate, heavy, indolent, spiritless; they feel a numbness and stiffness in their limbs; with an extreme sensibility to all the changes of the weather, cold in particular; their hair drops off; their bodies are bent, their limbs unable to support them, and a tottering and unsteadiness of gait in walking, appears through all their endeavours to conceal it. A general disrelish of every enjoyment and unsuitness for every occupation seize them. The spinal marrow wasting away, and the animal spirits suffering a continual and excessive dissipation, the powers of circulation are weakened, and both mind and body fall equally into languor and decay.

The stomach is ruined and the digestive faculties destroyed; hence some lose all desire of food, while others are no less remarkably voracious, but receive no nourishment from what they eat; these two extremes sometimes prevail alternately in the same person; a full meal is succeeded in some by violent pains of the stomach, in others by a lethargic drowsiness; others again experience a sort of giddiness approaching to intoxication. The source of nutrition being thus, as it were, dried up, the absence of the repairing powers is felt in every part of the machine, and universal atrophy is the inevitable consequence. The insensible perspiration is interrupted, the natural heat exhausted, a predisposition to the stone takes place, and heats of the liver and kidneys are generated. A particular and indescribable pain in the orifice of the stomach

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mach is felt by some persons after every act of excess, corresponding with and succeeding an agreeable sensation in the same place, frequently observable after a moderate enjoyment of legitimate pleasure. With the affections of this organ are also connected the accidents, which a perseverance in venereal excesses brings on the intestines; as violent pains, cholick, twistings, &c. obstinate constipation* in most patients, wasting diarrhea in others; in some few, evacuations of a black or sanious and preternaturally fetid matter. Habitual vomitings are no unfrequent symptom.

Whether there be any immediate connexion between the organs of generation and those of respiration, and that so the affections of the one reach necessarily to the other; or that the general impoverishment of the habit, be sufficient alone to induce

* *The Laxative Powders,*

Are here particularly recommended to all who cannot easily or safely take the purgatives in common use. Without disgusting the most fastidious palate, or producing sickness or griping in the most irritable constitution, they are safe, speedy and most powerful in their effects. Besides possessing in an eminent degree all the usual virtues of medicines of this class, they are particularly efficacious against all the disagreeable concomitants of pregnancy in women, where laxatives liable to generate wind, as well as drastic purges are carefully to be avoided.

They infallibly prevent or remove costiveness or indigestion, and are the best remedy against the piles and cutaneous eruptions. Persons disordered by excess in eating or drinking; by long residence in hot climates, by travel, or violent exercise, will find them as salutary as agreeable. In diseases incident to children, arising chiefly from acidity in the stomach and intestines, they are administered with the greatest advantage, safety, and ease. If kept in a dry place they will preserve their virtues any number of years, not being liable to fermentation or corruption. They are sold in packets of 2s. 8d. and 5s. 4d. each, at Dr. SMYTH'S, *Great Suffolk-street, Charing Cross*, and may be had of those who vend the Doctor's Medicines in *Great Britain and Ireland*, each 2s. 8d. packet contains six papers, and each 5s. 4d. packet contains a dozen papers. A paper is a dose, to be taken night and morning in a little honey, syrop, milk and water, or in any mild simple liquor, and repeated as occasion may require. Half a paper is a dose for a child, to be taken in the same manner. Though

induce pulmonary consumption; certain it is, that all who addict themselves long to venereal excesses, and in particular to masturbation, have their lungs

more. Though the Laxative Powders are especially recommended to the public for the removal of costiveness, &c. yet, as various constitutions and palates require different forms and kinds of medicines, the following prescriptions are annexed:

No. I.

R Pil. ex. Aloe cum Myrrha 3j
Extracti Jalappæ
Pulv. Piper. long aa ʒj
Rhabbarbari Russici ʒfs

Olei Origani gtt. x.

Mucilag. Gum. Arabic. Q. S. ft. Pilulæ XLVIII quarum sumat tres vel quatuor in astrictione alvi.

No. II.

R Pil. Rufi
Pulv. Rhabbarbari ana ʒj.
Calomelanos pp. ʒj
Olei Menthæ p. gtt. ix

Mucilag. Gum. Arabic. Q. S. ft. Pil. xxxvi. Capiat iij vel iv pro re nata

No. III.

R Electuarii e Senna ʒj
Pulv. Jalappæ ʒj
Cremor. Tartar. ʒij

Misce et cum S. Q. Syr. Zingiberis ft. Elect. de quo capiat Q. N. M. subinde in alvi constipatione.

No. IV.

R Infus. Sennæ ʒx
Træ. Sennæ
Jalappæ

Tart. Solub. aa ʒij
Pulv. Rhabbarbari gr. xii

Tinct. Lavendulæ C. ʒj.
Misce ft. Haustus pro re nata sumendus.

Persons afflicted with obstinate or habitual costiveness, should occasionally have recourse to clysters of a mild nature, which they may themselves inject with a proper syringe made either of elastic bottle or blocktin. They should also exercise a good deal in the open air—avoid sedentary pursuits, and dilute their food sufficiently.

* * * The pills and electuary to be washed down with infusion of chamomile, or any mild simple liquor, as tea, whey, &c.

Those who take the draught should observe, at the time of taking it, to shake the bottle. The pills, electuary or draught to be worked off with warm water gruel.

more or less, most often fatally, affected; hence pains of the breast and sides, hoarseness, extinction of the voice at intervals, dry cough, cough with purulent expectoration, ulcer of the lungs, offensive breath, &c. Hence also, the facility with which they are put out of breath in walking or making any other effort.

In the general suffering of the whole frame, it cannot be expected that the head shall remain unaffected. A burning pain in the membrane of the brain is a very common symptom; a more general one still, a heaviness of the head, attended with giddiness and drowsiness: while all the organs of sense lose greatly of their natural acuteness, the eyes in particular suffer; a dimness of sight leads the way through different stages to a total loss of that inestimable faculty. A heaviness and pain of the eye-lids become habitual, with an accumulation of gummy matter between them, which keeps up a perpetual soreness there. Pains and spasmodick affections of the eyes themselves, with a preternatural dilation of the pupil during the orgasm, frequently take place. Complete *gutta serena* is no unusual consequence; and one of the most frequent, is a sudden abortion of tears in reading or directing the sight to any particular object, or a continual distillation of the lacrymal liquor. The scintillations or sparkling appearances, which we observe in the eyes of other animals, and experience sometimes in our own *in coitu* (an effect of the emotions excited in the humours of the eye by the agitations of the whole frame) shew how intimate and immediate a connexion subsists between the organs of generation and those of sight.

Noises in the ears and hardness of hearing point out the approach of total deafness; a calamity,

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like all the rest proceeding from the same source, no otherwise avoidable than by joining a total and timely abstinence from the criminal and destructive gratifications to which it owes its rise, to the most efficacious assistance that physic can give.

Another symptom, in appearance little dangerous, but arising from a cause highly so, the impoverishment and morbid state of the whole frame, is a succession of pimples, pustules, tetters, eruptions, suppurating blotches, &c. on different parts of the body, connected, some of them evidently, others more obscurely, but not less certainly, with the principal seat of the disease; as the forehead, temples, nose, breast, inside of the thighs, *penis*, *labia pudendi*, &c. To this symptom in particular, I wish to direct the attention both of the physician and the patient; of the physician, because, whenever it occurs and cannot be traced to any other probable cause, he may consider it as an almost certain indication of what is often so tenaciously concealed, and yet requires so much to be known, the existence of the odious habit of masturbation; and of the patient, that he may receive it as an alarming admonition of the mischief he has done himself, and as the forerunner of innumerable ills to follow, unless he stops short in time.

As the organs of generation constitute the instruments of the crime, so the severest, if not the first, exertions of punishment are directed against them. We find in the first place, that there are none of the *partial* affections to which the exquisite sensibility and extreme delicacy of structure of those organs renders them liable, that may not be produced by this cause; as painful priapisms, strangury, dysury, heat of urine, complete gleet, contraction of the urinary arch, in consequence
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of paralysis in those muscles that operate the expulsion of the urine, painful tumours in the testicles, bladder, spermatick cord, penis, &c. Nay, such a shrinking and contraction of the penis and *scrotum* takes place sometimes in habitual masturbators, as scarcely to leave any exterior sign of virility: but these inconveniences, however troublesome, form infinitely the smallest part of the punishment they so justly incur; a general debility and relaxation takes place, which renders erection impossible, or allows of none but incomplete ones, attended with such a depravation of the seminal liquor, as makes it incapable of impregnation, even though none of the circumstances necessary to a proper intromission were wanting. The union of these two circumstances produces total and incurable impotence, the most debasing and disgraceful of all calamities, when arising from our own fault, rendering us justly an object of loathing to one sex, of contempt to the other, and of detestation to ourselves. The immediate causes of this dreadful consummation (for its remote causes have been already sufficiently explained) are the habitual gleet, and involuntary nocturnal emissions of the seminal liquor, two consequences that too frequently attend venereal excesses of every kind, but which never fail to follow habitual masturbation.

It is an universal law in animal bodies, that, the oftener any part is put in motion, and the more it is exercised *to a certain point*, the greater strength and aptitude for its particular functions it acquires; but that every degree of motion or exercise *beyond that point*, tends necessarily and inevitably to weaken, relax and destroy it, this holds good, as well of the largest muscle, as of the smallest fibre, and serves to explain, both

why an immoderate repetition of venereal pleasures induces a paralytick relaxation of the muscles subservient to erection, and why, similar relaxation taking place in the fibres of the seminal vessels, from the too frequent return of alternate repletion and inanition, they become by degrees incapable of retaining the precious liquor for whose reception they are designed. Hence the first stages of habitual excess are marked by an oozing, either of the true seminal liquor, or of that which is secreted by the prostate glands, after every emission; shortly that oozing becomes in a manner habitual, and follows every bodily effort connected in any way with the parts affected, as making water, or going to stool, being jolted in a carriage or on horseback, &c. At length the irritability of the organs of generation becomes so excessive, as to produce from the slightest cause, and frequently without any known cause whatever, not a gradual oozing but a compleat emission. The more the different strainers are emptied in any part of the body, the greater quantity of humours is determined towards them to supply that waste; applying this to the case before us, we perceive why, the juices being thus attracted to the parts of generation, the rest of the body is impoverished, and fuel furnished to the devouring flame, which were it not for that supply would go out of itself.

The smallest quantity of *semen* elaborated in place of what goes off by this continual waste becomes burthensome to the weak and irritable vessels that contain it and hastens to be discharged even without an erection. In the case of the oozing so often mentioned (which when it continues for any time and encreases in quantity, constitutes

stitutes a gleet of that kind called by physicians *gonorrhea benigna*) it makes a great difference whether the matter be furnished by the prostate glands, or consists of the true seminal liquor; a running of the former kind is very little dangerous in comparison of the latter, which by degrees takes away not only all power, but all desire of coition, destroys the sensibility of the nerves, and induces paralytic flaccidity of the muscles of the organs of generation, so that the semen flows off without sensation or erection. This species of gleet; not more destructive than difficult of cure, which has in so many instances baffled the efforts of the first physicians in Europe, gives way in a space of time incredibly short to the medicine hereafter recommended.

All these evils are encreased and perpetuated by the pruriency which the mind contracts along with the body, keeping up a continual stimulus, and doing no less harm by obscene dreams at night, than by lascivious meditations all day. Hence those frequent and abundant involuntary emissions of semen during sleep, when the imagination, abandoned to the workings of its own habitual corruption, conjures up unreal phantoms of enjoyment, and to visionary objects of impure delight, gives, as it were, "*a local habitation and a name*," as if it were doomed that the wretched victim of inordinate pleasure should have no season of respite, but labour at the work of his own destruction by night as well as by day! The mischiefs arising from this particular source are the more dreadful, as the more incurable; for as we have much less command over the operations of our mental faculties during sleep, than in our waking state, even those who make and are prepared

pared to keep, the arduous resolution of breaking through their destructive habits, find their efforts ineffectual, while, like Penelope's suitors of old, they see the work of each revolving day undone in the succeeding night.

Some or other, often the greatest part, of the symptoms here described, occur in the generality of patients, and unite to constitute the whole of the disease; there are others rarer or more anomalous, occurring less frequently, or not so easily referable to the known causes of the disease.

Patients, not a few, have been afflicted with an amazing and a universal rigidity and spasmodick tension of the principal muscles of the body, so as to be incapable of motion, and unable to make the smallest effort for their own relief, as to feed, dress, or even turn themselves in bed, resembling (pain and the reproaches of their conscience only excepted) masses of inanimate matter more than living or human beings.

Sharp and acrid humours sometimes fall upon different parts of the body, particularly the nape of the neck, spine, loins, and articulations of the different joints, attended with tumours, contractions and unsufferable pain, eating up and corroding as they spread, and inducing weakness, distortion of the limbs and deformity of the whole frame. Spontaneous gangrenes have been known to arise in different parts of the body, without any other cause but venereal excesses.

Frequent repetition of the act of self-abuse has been followed in some instances by an emission of blood, instead of *semen*.

Besides the various symptoms which constitute the essence of the disease itself, there are many diseases, and those some of the most fatal and obstinate

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stinate incident to the human frame, with which it has so close a connexion as frequently to lead to them without any predisposition in the constitution of the patient, and always to aggravate their dangers and render them more incurable, when such a predisposition exists; of these the principal are palsy, apoplexy, epilepsy, hypochondria, hysterical affections, &c. Few indeed there are who have long addicted themselves to the habit of self-abuse, without labouring under symptoms foretelling the approach of one or other of those diseases, or of a complication of them all; as nervous tremblings, numbness, habitual or paroxysmatick spasms, habitual drowsiness during the day, and disturbed sleep at night, vertigoes, fainting fits, palpitations, suffocations, involuntary sighing, weeping, &c. To a *crisis* of some or other of these affections are generally to be attributed those sudden deaths which so frequently overtake people in the very act of coition. But there are other diseases, having in appearance no connection with the original and principal one, that cannot be denied to proceed frequently from it, as dropsy, jaundice, and all the worst varieties of gout. Nor has the diseased state of the habit effects less fatal in acute than chronick affections; hence fever, small pox, &c. are generally fatal to constitutions injured by venereal excesses. During convalescence, the danger of coition is so great and so imminent, that a relapse often, sudden death sometimes is the consequence. It is a fact well known to all practitioners, that a confirmed *lues venerea* is nearly incurable in habitual masturbators.

Such are the bodily ills that follow an unrestrained indulgence of those desires, which nature
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has implanted in our breasts for the wisest ends, and which we can neither abuse nor pervert with impunity. But how far are these from constituting the whole of the punishment thus incurred! What an alarming addition remains still to be made to the black catalogue, in the enumeration of those evils that affect the mind! The mind, the partner, often the prompter, of the body's excesses, is involved in the punishment as well as in the guilt, and finds that punishment the more intolerable in proportion to its superior delicacy and keener sense of injury. A progressive, but general depravation of all the intellectual faculties takes place, of the memory in particular; which is frequently so far destroyed, as to retain no traces of what was most tenaciously fixed in it. The imagination loses its vigour, the comprehension is dulled, the conception of the plainest things becomes laborious and imperfect. The sentiment of existence is in a manner extinguished, all that passes has the appearance of a dream, or of those visionary sensations that we experience between sleeping and waking; unfitted by a perpetual absence of mind for every pursuit, whether of business or pleasure, mental and bodily torment is all that remains to remind the unhappy sufferer of his existence. Stupidity, ideotism, lunacy, mania, frequently succeed, and in one dreadful vortex swallow up every other affection both of mind and body; previous to this horrid consummation the patient has to struggle with the most exquisite and tormenting remorse of conscience; the contemplation of his wretched state, and consciousness of being himself the sole author of it, are punishments which he finds equally inevitable and intolerable. Uninterrupted anguish of mind, interior

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rior disquietude, he knows not why, dissatisfaction at all things without any particular cause, despair of recovery, even when the cure is farthest advanced, fill up the measure of his ills, and occupy all those of his wretched moments that are not taken up with more tormenting sensations.

As if it were more criminal to poison the source, than to divert the stream of natural delight, masturbation is followed in the weaker sex by consequences still worse than those already enumerated; for not only all the above mentioned symptoms, both of body and mind, take place in women as well as in men, but there are some peculiar to the former, and the disease in general seems to proceed with greater rapidity in the female than in the male constitution. It is a truth established so long ago as in the days of Hippocrates, that three fourths of the diseases to which women are subject, take their rise in the *matrix*; this consideration is sufficient to shew the danger of a practice, which, ruining that organ in the first instance, brings on every calamity that can be derived from so fertile a source. The sudden and inevitable loss of their chief ornament and most valued treasure, their beauty, is the first punishment inflicted upon them. They fall away, their plumpness and complexion forsake them, their skin becomes rough, the eyes lose their lustre, the lips their vermilion, the teeth their whiteness, and the breath its perfume. The shape is generally destroyed along with the face; the weakness superadded to the natural delicacy of the female frame, often produces distortion, even after the growth is completed; but as the odious manœuvre so often mentioned (and *here* mentioned with more than usual

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repugnance) generally exerts its fatal influence at an earlier period, it may be easily conceived to be abundantly equal to the production of deformity of every kind. To these evils must be added, hysterics and vapours of more than ordinary obstinacy, incurable jaundice, violent cramps of the stomach and back, acute pains of the nose, *fluor albus* in an extraordinary degree, and of a quality extraordinarily sharp, and corroding so as to keep up continual soreness and pain; prolapses and ulcerations of the matrix; prolongations and tetters of the *clitoris*, barrenness, proceeding from a double cause, the depravation of the semen and relaxations of the organs of conception and gestation; and the last and worst of all those calamities to which nature has subjected the female sex, *furor uterinus*; a calamity which degrades the loveliest work of nature to a state infinitely below the lowest of the brute creation, but which seldom occurs unless by the fault of the person afflicted with it. The most shocking accidents have happened by the escape of the instrument of guilty delight into the bladder, similar to that already related of the shepherd in the South of France. But what stands as a single instance of refinement in wickedness in one sex, is unfortunately too frequent an accident in the other. This is also a proper place to mention that indifference, or aversion rather, for the legitimate pleasures of the marriage bed, which an habitual indulgence in unnatural gratifications so often brings on. This, it must be owned, takes place sometimes in men, but infinitely less frequently than in women.

In treating of any disease, the cure is the principal part, and that to which all the rest is subservient; so much so indeed, that in a work like the

the present short Treatise, if the means by which that great end is to be obtained can be inculcated by the physician, or comprehended by the patient without reference to any thing else, all that relates to causes or symptoms is superfluous. But since in those cases, where the confidence of the sufferer can only be gained by impressing on his mind, with more than ordinary force, the dangers of a malady more than ordinary fatal, there are no other means that will lead a person unaccustomed to medical investigation, to a knowledge of the virtues or defects of any medicine so surely, as by making him acquainted with the nature and effects of the disease for which that medicine is designed; I have been obliged, in my account of the causes and symptoms of *Tabes Dorsalis*, to take up a proportion of my reader's time, which may seem very large in comparison of the little that is to be said concerning the cure of that destructive and obstinate malady. In almost all cases it is infinitely easier to discover the evil than to apply the remedy, and while the catalogue of human infirmities is inexhaustibly long, the list of remedies (of those I mean that truly deserve that name) is miserably short; my readers therefore must not be surprized, if I confine what I have to say of the cure of this disease to a short, plain and sincere account of the properties of a medicine, which the uniform and uninterrupted success of fifteen years practise, proves to be universally and invariably efficacious in the cure of every stage and appearance of this disease.

It is a maxim in physic, that to know the disease is half the cure; but however true it may be, of the morbid affections incident to the human frame in general, an exception must be made with re-

gard to the malady so often spoken of ; since of those physicians, in all ages and nations, who are acknowledged to have best understood all that is possible to understand concerning diseases and their cure, few there are, from Hippocrates to Boerhaave, whose names have not been cited to give a sanction to some composition or particular mode of treatment, all of which, after enjoying a short period of unmerited reputation, have upon trial been found ineffectual, and sunk successively into oblivion and neglect. But we must not therefore conclude, that the *materia medica* affords nothing that can oppose with effect the ravages of this scourge of humanity and disgrace of the medical art ; nor argue, that since the giants of physick have suffered a shameful defeat, it is temerity in the dwarfs of that science to enter the lists. We cannot, without impeaching the mercy at least, if not the justice of Providence, admit that there exists any evil to which there is not a fixed and appointed remedy. The investigation of those remedies is one of the noblest employments of human industry, and their discovery perhaps the sublimest triumph which the intellectual exertions of man can obtain. But, as if it were to humble our pride, and teach us the nothingness of our faculties, pursuits and attainments, the decrees of Providence have so ordered it, that humanity owes more in this respect to ignorance than to learning, to common sense than to genius, to the suggestions of assiduous practice than to the sublime speculations of theory. Few medicines there are of any great and real value, whose discovery is not owing to accident ; a truth this, which the physician who understands the real dignity of his profession, will never be ashamed to acknowledge, and which

which properly weighed, must take away all appearance of presumption in *my* offering to the world a medicine for the cure of the disease, which, I have already observed, the greatest of my predecessors have found incurable. Whether or no accident has had, in this as in most other medical discoveries, a share that robs the nominal inventor of almost the whole merit, or what particular circumstances led to the first trial of the ingredients that enter into the composition of my Restorative Drops, I should have no objection to inform the public, however injurious that information might be to my own interest, if it was at all necessary to the relief of my patients, or the removal of the disease against which my medicine is so sovereignly efficacious.

It is no small misfortune to persons labouring under the different complaints described in the former part of these observations, that there are certain medical substances, which, while they induce a temporary and apparent amendment of their symptoms, occasion a real and inevitable aggravation of all their ill effects, which give relief for the present, only to make the aid of physick afterwards both more necessary and more difficult; not unlike those vast heaps of fuel which seem to extinguish the fire at first, only to make it burn with the greater fierceness afterwards. All the hot and volatile medicines are of this class, and should be avoided the more carefully, as poisons are the more dangerous when they come in the disguise of remedies. But of all these, the very one that is incomparably the most destructive, recommends itself most powerfully by the quickness of its operation, as well to the daring and unprincipled empirick as to the credulous and unsuspecting

unsuspecting patient, although it is certain that it can neither be administered by the former nor taken by the latter, without the immediate risk of murder on the one side and suicide on the other : my readers must perceive that I mean *cantharides*, a remedy (if remedy it may be called) the internal exhibition of which is of itself sufficient to occasion, in the soundest and most robust constitution, more and greater disturbances than the disease it is meant to cure.

The Restorative Drops, to whose excellence many of the most eminent among my brethren of the faculty have borne testimony, in terms which I am not vain enough to repeat, differs as much from compositions of this kind (and it is but justice to the public to declare, that the different compositions so impudently announced every day as infallible remedies for barrenness, impotence, seminal weaknesses, gleet &c. are of *this* kind) in the manner of its operation as in its effects ; it does not act with that dangerous rapidity which betrays the inflammatory quality of the medicines it attends, but requires for the full production of its salutary effects, a moderate and by no means tedious space of time. Its principal seat of action is the stomach, restoring the digestive powers, and sending from the organ new health, life and vigour into every part of the frame. As the stomach is in a great measure the source from which proceed most of the evils already so often described, so it must be the fountain-head of the cure, if I may so express myself, and from it the salutary streams must take their rise, that are to revive and invigorate the whole body. Hence it is that the Restorative Drops, attacking the evil at the very root, eradicate at the same time the effect and the cause ;

cause; hence their immediate efficacy in enriching at once and purifying the juices, by throwing off every thing foul and superfluous, and substituting whatever nourishes and cleanses; for we know that all the juices of the body either are secreted in the stomach, or that the materials for their secretion are supplied by that organ. Their great excellence consists in their aptitude to restore that nutritive, gelatinous substance, which immoderate evacuations had destroyed, and whose loss had thrown the whole frame into languor and debility, and induced atrophy, marasmus, and every symptom and species of decay. By these means the tone and elasticity of the fibres are re-established, and the sound and healthful sensibility of the nerves is restored, at the same time that their morbid and excessive irritability is removed; not by an immediate action on the nervous system itself (for those stimulants that operate in that manner are inevitably destructive, and the contrary of these drops in this as in every other respect) but by enriching and purifying those sources from whence the nerves derive their health and soundness. They fortify without stimulating and animate without inflaming: they favour the reproduction of the *semen*, and strengthen at the same time the secretory vessels and the reservoirs, so as to insure at once a due elaboration and sufficient retention of that liquor; and by that means remove radically all the affections of the genital parts in both sexes, as gleet, involuntary emissions, paralytick flaccidity of the muscles, *fluor albus*, &c. substituting vigour to impotence and introducing fecundity in place of barrenness. Numberless persons, whom imprudence or misfortune had reduced to the afflicting necessity of renounc-

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ing for ever the consolations of marriage, have become parents by the use of these drops, and received as it were a second existence in the birth of a beautiful and healthy offspring. Some, induced by gratitude and a desire of communicating to others the relief they had experienced themselves, permitted me to give their names to the world, and testified with the utmost cheerfulness both their own infirmities and the obligations they owed my medicine: I availed myself of their permission, so long as the Restorative Drops had any need of external testimony in their favour; but their properties and efficacy are at present so well known, and their reputation so widely and honourably established; that they require no other basis to support them; I have therefore suppressed every thing of that sort in the present Edition.

It only remains therefore, to recommend to all those who labour under any of these symptoms or complaints enumerated before, for their own sake more than mine, to have recourse to a medicine whose innocence in all cases is no less remarkable than its efficacy in those for which it is particularly designed.* A short trial will be sufficient to convince them, how different it is from those that

* Previous however to the exhibition of the Restorative, or of any other remedy given with the same intent, it sometimes is necessary to cleanse the stomach. For this purpose, an ounce of ipecacuan wine, mixed (in a glass mortar) with a grain or two of emetick tartar, may be taken about two hours before bed-time, working it off with infusion of chamomile. After the operation of the emetick, something light, as a poached egg and a bit of toast should be eaten, and a little wine and water drank. The following day the patient is to begin with the Restorative, which he is to take agreeably to the printed directions given with each bottle.

It is to be observed, that patients afflicted with internal ulcer or hemorrhage, should forego all emeticks and the cold bath, for reasons obvious to every medical man.

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give a temporary relief only to bring on a permanent and habitual aggravation of the disease. Those who by debauchery of any species (the worst and most shameful in particular) have destroyed their constitutions, form the largest class among the numbers in whose relief it is so sovereignly efficacious ; but its good effects are not confined to these : there are too many others whose cases present similar symptoms, arising from causes very different, and who every day take the Restorative Drops with equal or greater benefit. It cannot be denied that the repeated and excessive use of mercury is sufficient, and independently of any other cause, so to destroy the nervous system as to bring on a total inability to the act of generation ; the gleans which ill-cured venereal infections sometimes leave behind them, end not unfrequently in the same calamity ; habitual intoxication is known to be followed by the same consequences and scarcely in a less degree ; that a long residence in hot and unhealthy climates should produce similar effects, would not be wondered at, when it is considered, that the great source of all those evils is to be found in immoderate evacuations, and that excessive evacuations must necessarily take place in the constitution of an European adult, transported to a climate so unnatural to him as those of either Indies or Africa ; it is no less certain that, the female constitution being peculiarly liable to many of the worst of those different affections that make up the whole of the disorder in question, numbers of that sex every day fall, without any fault of their own, into a state of disease which is often rashly and uncharitably interpreted into the punishment of a crime too odious to name ; not to mention that the inactive and sedentary of our own sex are frequently afflicted with complaints of a nature perfectly similar, and

removable by the same means. If to all these it be any consolation to be assured, that multitudes labouring under their respective complaints have been, and every day are relieved by the use of the Restorative Drops, I can with truth give them that assurance, and they may with confidence accept it as the earnest of a certain and speedy cure, on condition that they take my medicine as directed, and that their several cases are not arrived at that degree of desperate extremity where no medicine can do any good.

Although the efficacy of the Restorative Drops is such that they require in most cases no assistance from any thing else, yet a due attention to air, exercise, sleep, and regimen, is in all proper, and in a few absolutely necessary: A few words on each of these heads will be sufficient.

The air to be chosen by persons who wish to obtain a cure in any of the last stages of the disease (for prior to that an attention to this circumstance is not so necessary) should be pure, and for that reason cities and great towns must be avoided if possible; but all country-air will not answer the end proposed; it must be dry and temperate as well as pure; if hot it exhausts, if moist it relaxes; cold, though far from being beneficial, is much less hurtful than too great heat. *

Wherever the patient is, he must not neglect exercise; it should be moderate at first and be augmented by degrees, being always left off before

* Jones, in his *Physiological Disquisitions*, p. 627, says, and says truly, that "The happiest situation, and the most promising toward the enjoyment of life and health, and every convenience, is near the bottom of an high hill that hath a southerly exposure, with woods and plantations about the head of it; a dry soil of sand and gravel with a mixture of loam, and running waters with green meadows before it; or the sea with a steep clean shore of gravel or beach."

too great fatigue takes place. All exercise is best fasting, and with regard to the kind of exercise most conducive to health, none is preferable to walking, when the patient is able to take enough of that. But that being seldom the case when the disease has made any progress, recourse must be had to riding on horseback; and if the patient is very weak, to a carriage. Under this head may be classed frictions with flannel or a flesh-brush, which in many cases, are of use; and the cold bath, which properly employed, is always greatly beneficial.

Much depends upon a due regulation of sleep, especially as the want or disturbance of that great restorative, is one of the most distressing symptoms of the disease. To contribute effectually to the cure, it should be sound and not too long; the best way of making it so, is to rise early, take sufficient exercise and proper food during the day, and sup lightly. No assistance should be sought from physic in this respect, except in cases of the last necessity.

Food opportunely given, says Celsus, is the best physic; if this be true, as it most certainly is, in other cases, what must it be in those where the want of strength and vigour forms the principal part of the disease? The greatest attention must be paid by the patient both to the quantity and quality of his food; he should rather eat a little and often, than gorge himself with a full meal at any one time: and this rule is the more necessary, as a preternatural voracity of appetite is a frequent symptom in this and every other species of decay.

It is also principally to be considered, that food only is of use or affords nourishment that is digested; that improper food, or food taken in too great quantity is often not digested, especially in weak stomachs, and that food not digested occasions considerable disturbance in the system. Those ali-

ments then only are to be made use of with moderation that are of easy solution and fermentation, and not flatulent or acescent. Animal and vegetable food, abounding in essential oil should be avoided; also high flavoured food that is adhesive and glary, as muscles, raw meat, &c. &c. The use of substances that are viscid, or gelatinous and adhesive, as the flesh of young animals, gellies, salop, &c. is also to be interdicted. Young animals yield a solution too adhesive and gelatinous; old animals too strong essential oil; we should therefore steer a mid course, chusing such as are neither too old nor too young, that have been accustomed to labour or exercise, and whose fibres are minute and delicate. Beef and mutton are deservedly in universal request. Beef however, though it agrees with most stomachs and affords considerable nourishment, is not so easy of digestion as mutton. It is too high flavoured. Veal and lamb in France, Switzerland, and Italy, should in general be avoided; but in England, where young animals are not prematurely and unseasonably slaughtered, even delicate stomachs may now and then eat of either without the fear of indigestion. Pig is of very difficult digestion; the use therefore of this food should be proscribed, as also of pork, dried, salted and baked provisions, and stimulating sauces of every kind. Animal food is somewhat better roast than boiled.

Domestic fowls, as the turkey, common cock and hen, particularly the pullet of about ten months, are of easy digestion; so is a pigeon.

Ducks, geese, &c. contain too much essential oil, and are too high flavoured.

Among game we shall select venison, rabbits, hares, partridges, quails, pheasants, woodcocks, snipe, &c. &c. and among fish, those of the white kind, as whiting, flounders, &c. Salmon, the king of fresh water fish, contains too much essential oil,
and

and is often, as well as herrings, &c. unfit for valetudinarians; so are shell fish, particularly muscles, which have often proved fatal.

Vegetables are very usefully employed with animal food, and *vice versa*; for animal food has a tendency, in weak stomachs especially, to become putrid, and vegetable food takes on the saccharine, vinous and acetous fermentation; but when mixed, they mutually correct and promote the digestion of each other. For the same reason, roots are used with fish, potatoes principally. We may employ with animal food, cabbages, the inner leaves, broccoli, spinach, French beans, cauliflower, and, now and then, properly qualified with pepper, peas, beans, or lentils, which, particularly the two former, have got a sanction from long continued and general use, which the certainty of their being flatulent and acedent will not remove: for the good they do, though little, when added to their gratefulness to the palate, more than counterbalances the evil they sometimes occasion by the generation of wind or gas. The artichoke is here to be mentioned, and with particular distinction. It abounds in farinaceous matter and sugar, is easy of digestion, and affords considerable nourishment.

Roots, as potatoes, turnips, parsnips, carrots, &c. afford much nourishment. The root of scarcity, like most new things has attracted much of late the public notice; but we consider it as not deserving any particular applause.

We also use sallot advantageously with animal food, as lettuce, endive, dandelion, &c. they naturally contain, as do most of the *Olera*, a very bitter juice, which in a great measure, is got rid of by culture. Cheese after dinner, if old, assists digestion; if new, loads the stomach.

Fruits, we shall next consider. Such as abound in sugar, as dried figs, grapes, raisins, prunes, &c. are

are best. The following also may be employed:—apricots, peaches, pears, plumbs, &c. Fruits abounding more in native vegetable acid than sugar, as cherries, gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries, &c. afford but little nourishment. The fruits employed should be sufficiently ripe, and of the very best kind.

Apples are most useful in pie or pudding; in which state they may constitute with advantage, a part of the dinner, as may custards, &c. Acid fruits are rendered much more nourishing and easier of digestion, by heat and the addition of sugar. Cucumbers and melons should never be eaten; they contain a mucilaginous matter extremely adhesive, and when ripe, an essential oil; they are very difficult of fermentation, and therefore of digestion. The husk of fruits or roots, or the skin of fish, is not to be eaten.

The patient's supper, we before said, should be light. It may consist of spinage and new laid eggs, or poached eggs, cold apple-pie, or roasted apples or artichoke, or asparagus. The roasted apples may be rendered palatable with sugar. At all meals it is necessary to employ bread well fermented; and at dinner and supper, to drink good pure water, discoloured with a little wine; or very good table beer, &c. Spirituous liquors in any form are destructive; some malt liquors not a little injurious; half a dozen glasses of generous port wine, or claret, may be taken, especially after or during dinner; but great care is necessary in procuring wine undiluted; particularly, as it is very well known that substances of the most deleterious nature, as ceruse or litharge, are often made use of for recovering of wines which had turned sour.

For breakfast boiled milk and cocoa, or good boiled milk, may be used;—or milk pottage, or butter milk, or good tea with a good deal of cream. Milk is perhaps the greatest natural Restorative

rative for those whose stomach it will sit on; unfortunately it disagrees with many persons, and when ever that is the case, it must be immediately laid aside. It is often found to be very bad and unfit for use in cities and great towns; —but in the country, where animals enjoy better health, and are accustomed to range the fields and feed without restraint on the salutary and medicinal plants that abound on the verdant lap of nature, it is found to possess considerable excellence and salubrity.

The catalogue of aliments here recommended is, it may be hoped, sufficiently long to allow every patient to select at his own discretion, a regimen that may be agreeable as well as salutary. For it is much to be wished that no painful restraint in this respect, nor obligation of living upon disagreeable food, should retard a recovery which depends in no inconsiderable degree upon the patients state of mind, who for that reason should endeavour to keep himself as tranquil and cheerful as possible, and to resist every attack of despondency and uneasiness.

No thing now remains but to instruct my readers how the Restorative Drops are to be taken. The patient is to begin with from thirty to forty drops, infused in a glass of water, capillaire or other simple liquor, and to take that quantity twice a day, in the morning before breakfast and at night before supper, till half the contents of a small bottle is exhausted, when he is to take the same quantity thrice every day, morning and night as before, and at noon. A very short trial of this simple and agreeable not less than salutary course, will give him the pleasing assurance that the foundations of his recovery are solidly laid, and that nothing more than a little longer perseverance is required for the completion of the great and desirable work.

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